

The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching & Learning

Invites You to an Information Sharing Session

On the

COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION: QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT ON UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION PROVISION

Pietermaritzburg Campus: Monday, 12 May from 12h30 to 14h30 in Council Chamber, Pietermaritzburg Campus

Howard College Campus: Tuesday, 13 May from 12h00 to 14h00 at Unite Building, Howard College Campus

Westville Campus: Monday, 19 May from 12h30 to 14h30 in the Senate Chamber, Westville Campus

Medical School staff, transport can be arranged to Howard College. *Please advise by Thursday, 8 May.*

Edgewood Campus staff, transport can be arranged to Westville Campus. *Please advise by Thursday, 15 May.*

RSVP WITH THE DETAILS TO:

Ms Corlia Ogle on utlo@ukzn.ac.za or Tel: 031260 8231

Council on Higher Education – Quality Enhancement Project on Undergraduate Education Provision

The institutional audits undertaken by the CHE in the first national cycle of quality assurance (2004-2011) were intended and developed to assure the quality of all aspects of South African higher education and also the quality of the institutions themselves. For the second period of quality assurance, which was launched on 27th February 2014, the focus has shifted from quality assurance to quality enhancement, that is, from a focus on ensuring that “standards are met and maintained through policies, procedures, monitoring and evaluation”, it has moved to a focus on “deliberate, continuous, systematic and measurable improvement” in quality.

Furthermore instead of focussing on a whole institution, the “Framework for Institutional Quality Enhancement in the Second Period of Quality Assurance” puts its gaze specifically and firmly on one key aspect, that of undergraduate teaching and learning within higher education institutions. Another major difference from the previous cycle of audits is that instead of focussing on one institution at a time, in this second period which will also last over a five year period, a completely different process is outlined in what has been termed “The Quality Enhancement Project (QEP)”.

The aim of the QEP is explicitly stated as seeking to “improve student success” through the goals of improving the quality of undergraduate educational provision and the number of quality graduates as well as developing a higher education system that is continuously improving through collaboration on good practices and solving shared problems. The QEP approach involves centrally co-ordinated activities in an iterative process with institutionally driven ones, which will take place in two phases, each lasting about two and a half years. In the first phase all institutions will make submissions to the CHE on how they are engaging in each of four selected areas: Enhancing University Teachers; Enhancing Student Support and Development; Enhancing the Learning Environment; and Enhancing Course and Programme Enrolment (submission due later this year). Based on their analysis of these institutional reports, the CHE will co-ordinate a process of bringing groups of institutions together to share ideas and information (to take place in 2015).

Following the launch of the QEP in February, a University-wide process of information sharing and awareness is being rolled out to ensure full participation of staff and students in this next 5-year cycle of Institutional Quality Enhancement.

References:

CHE (2014) *Framework for Institutional Quality Enhancement in the Second Period of Quality Assurance* http://www.che.ac.za/media_and_publications/frameworks-criteria/framework-institutional-quality-enhancement-second-period

CHE (2014) *Quality Enhancement Project: The Process for Public Higher Education Institutions* http://www.che.ac.za/media_and_publications/frameworks-criteria/quality-enhancement-project-qep-process