



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION

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JUNE- NEWSLETTER: NO. 2 OF 2016

Dear SACLAP registered Professionals, Candidates and Stakeholders

SACLAP trusts that this communication finds you well as the second half of the year approaches.

Please find below the progress on the relevant activities that SACLAP has been very busy with since the last newsletter.

COUNCIL MATTERS

The first EXCO meeting of the new financial year took place on the 19 May 2016. The focus of this meeting was the SACLAP budget for the 2016-2017 financial year. SACLAP is exploring the feasibility of an online platform for registration which can be accessed directly by individuals for new applications or updating current information. SACLAP will inform all the registered persons as the process unfolds.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

As at the end of the financial year, 31 March 2016, the SACLAP had 179 registered professionals and 61 candidates on the database.

The Registration Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis and is currently attending to the following matters:

Registration Policy

The Registration Policy and the associated addendums for the Landscape Management profession and the Landscape Architectural profession were gazetted on the 27 May 2016 for public comment until the 1 July 2016. All Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments to registrar@saclap.org.za (even though the deadline has passed).

The Board Notice and associated documents requesting public comment appear on the SACLAP website under the download page. Please note that the Landscape Architectural profession addendum has been delayed and will be circulated for comment soonest.

Candidate workshops in Gauteng and Cape Town

The Candidate workshops took place successfully, whereby presentations were done on the new professional registration assessment process outlined below.

The workshops were well received with 32 candidates attending in Gauteng and 12 in Cape Town. Many thanks to the registration committee members who gave up their Saturday morning to assist. It is greatly appreciated.

SACLAP kindly requests the attendees, to please send general feedback to the Registrar's office on the workshop with respect to the presentations and expectations thereof. This way SACLAP can ensure that future workshops will achieve the necessary purpose and objectives.

SACLAP will host a series of mentor workshops later this year to brief all involved of the new core competencies and amended professional registration assessments. More detail on these workshops will follow in a mailer.

SACLAP Professional Registration Evaluation Process for 2016

As previously communicated in mailers, the new evaluation is as follows:

- i. Section 1: Professional Practice – this remains a written examination which will take place on **Saturday, 23 July 2016** at venues to be confirmed for both Gauteng and Cape Town.
- ii. Section 2: Landscape Design – this will be a dedicated selection of only 3-7 projects that are set out in line with specific requirements, as determined by the Registration Committee – the date for submission is Wednesday, 31 August 2016.
- iii. Section 3: Environmental Planning – an assignment has been set for this which integrates all aspects as per the core competency table and the reading list – the date for submission is Friday, 30 September 2016.
- iv. All eligible candidates for 2016 have been informed accordingly.

Interview (Recognition of Prior Learning) Route

The Registration by review process for 2016 began with the Gauteng interviews which took place on the 16 March 2016, followed by the Cape Town interviews on the 21 April 2016.

SACLAP acknowledges with thanks all the interviewees as well as the review panel members for their time and commitment to this very important process of registration.

The outcome has resulted in the registration of 1 professional landscape architect, 1 professional landscape technologist, 4 candidate landscape architects and 1 candidate landscape technician.

Student applications

SACLAP still continues to register students at no cost, who are currently completing their studies in Landscape Architecture and Landscape Technology. This allows students to remain up to date on SACLAP matters in preparation of entering the professional realm. Should you be interested and in need of an application form, visit the website on www.saclap.org.za and click on the download section.

Updating of Register information

• Contact details

If your contact details (includes emails and contact numbers) have changed, or your surname (a marriage certificate is required) has changed, please remember to notify the Registrar's office, so that the information on record is current and up to date. It has come to SACLAP's notice that some registered persons are using more than two email addresses and some of which do not appear on the database. You will only receive a mailer if the correct email address/es are on the database – if this applies to you, please advise on the two email addresses that you wish to be contacted on.

• Candidate information

If you have changed your mentor since your registration with SACLAP, please remember to pass on the new details to the Registrar's Office i.e. a letter from your new mentor is required as soon as the mentorship commences. Please forward the above information to administrator@saclap.org.za

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

The following key matters should be noted:

2016 CPD submissions and new Registration Certificates

SACLAP has completed the review process successfully and the outcome of the review has been communicated to the relevant professionals.

SACLAP Continued Professional Development (CPD) and Voluntary Association (VA) policies

After the inclusion of public comments, the CPD and VA policies were gazetted for implementation as of 6 May 2016. Both these policies were circulated in mailers to all and are available on the SACLAP website. Many thanks to all, who have engaged and participated in these processes.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Financial Sustainability of SACLAP

The Department of Public Works has communicated with SACLAP on expected grant funding earmarked for the 2016/2017 financial year. Stakeholders should be aware that these funds have conditions attached. SACLAP will be requesting assistance from key role players, in the form of inputs into an Action Plan that is to take the Council forward to becoming financially sustainable.

Rates for 2016 – 2017

The rates table for 2016-2017 was gazetted on the 18 March 2016 for implementation as of 1 April 2016. The table was disseminated in mailers to all Stakeholders and is also available on the SACLAP website.

Registered professionals should note that, as per the Council decision taken at the February 2016 council meeting, the Education Levy may be utilised to assist candidates. SACLAP has identified that there is a greater need to assist such individuals due to the large number of bursaries that have been sponsored by the Department of Public Works.

Billing, Payments and proof

This is a kind request for individuals to please advise timeously whether you, your company or employer should be billed for your fees. SACLAP has received a number of requests for billing to be directed to employers and companies after the invoices were sent out by the Secretariat. It is very time consuming to do this retrospectively.

Should this request be applicable to you, and to prevent duplication of invoicing and extra administration, kindly alert the Registrar's office via administrator@saclap.org.za, so that the Secretariat of SACLAP, who is responsible for generating the invoices, can be advised soonest.

With regards to proof of payments, kindly forward this to secretariat@saclap.org.za and please note that your invoice number is the reference.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

SACLAP Higher Education Policy, Education Standards and Accreditation Procedures document

The policy was gazetted for implementation as of 18 March 2016. The policy was circulated to all Stakeholders and is published on the SACLAP website.

Academic Forum Matters

Two meetings have successfully taken place since the last newsletter and information relating to the Forum can be made available on request.

CHE workshop on the 4 March 2016

All Built Environment Professional Councils were invited by the Council for Higher Education to attend a workshop on the CHE Framework on the Roles and Responsibilities for Professional councils regarding the accreditation of professional programmes and related quality assurance functions. SACLAP has provided input and awaits the outcome.

Accreditation Visits

1. Cape Peninsula University of Technology Review in April 2016

The CPUT Accreditation visit took place on the 20 and 21 April 2016 successfully at the Bellville Campus in the Western Cape. SACLAP is happy to inform you that the National Diploma Landscape Technology (3 years) NQF 6, and B Tech Landscape Technology (1 year) NQF 7 programmes at CPUT were accredited without condition (full accreditation).

2. University of Pretoria Review in 2017

SACLAP has commenced with the preparation for the Accreditation visit to the UP which takes place from 28 February to 2 March 2017. The programmes that will be reviewed are the BSc (LArch) NQF 7 and BL (Hons) NQF 8 and ML (Professional) NQF 9.

3. University of Cape Town Review in 2017

SACLAP has commenced on the preparation for the Accreditation visit to the UCT from 9 -10 March 2017. The programmes that will be under review are the MLA Professional NQF 9, as well as the new programmes that are to be introduced namely the BLA (Hons) NQF 8 (1 year) and MLA (1 year) NQF 9.

NEW REGISTRATION CATEGORIES

The Establishment of New Registration (Specified) Categories document was gazetted for implementation from the 1 April 2016. The document is published on the SACLAP website for ease of reference.

The Registrar's presentation to the SAGIC conference in Cape Town in June 2016 was well received. On completion of the commenting period, the new registration categories will be implemented. This is anticipated to take place in the third quarter of this year (Oct – Dec) financial year.

Weighted tables

The Weighted tables for the Landscape Architectural Profession and the Landscape Management Profession were gazetted for public comment until the 1 May 2016. There was only one comment received and SACLAP will publish the final tables for implementation soonest. As is the current SACLAP practice, the mailers with the respective documents will be disseminated to all the Stakeholders and will be published on the website.

GENERAL

The following items are shared for your information:

1. Council for the Built Environment (CBE) and Competition Commission

- **IDoW and Professional Fees:** The CBE invited all Councils to meet with its legal advisors on the 6 May 2016 regarding the outcomes received from the Competition Commission. SACLAP attended and will be presenting a letter to the CBE to act on its behalf to take the matter forward. Further details regarding the processes are awaited from Adams and Adams, the legal advisors that the CBE has appointed to take the process forward.
- It should be noted that Ms Priscilla Mdlalose is still the Acting CEO at the CBE.
- The CBE is rolling out a programme for candidates. In order to link candidates with suitable mentors, the CBE has requested that registered professionals please register with the CBE as such. If you are interested and willing to assist, please contact the Registrar, by email for further detailed information.

- The CBE held its Strategic Review Planning Session in May 2016 and was attended by the SACLAP Registrar.
- 2. **SACLAP Strategic Planning Review** – this is set up for the 28 July 2016 and relevant stakeholders have been invited.

3. **SACLAP REGISTRAR'S OFFICE**

The SACLAP Council would like to inform all Stakeholders with much sadness, that after many years of holding the fort, Ms Bernadette Vollmer, the Registrar has resigned. Ms Vollmer will end her employment as at 15 December 2016 when the office closes at year end. The SACLAP Council acknowledges with thanks and gratitude, Ms Vollmer's commitment to SACLAP over the many years and wishes her well in her future endeavours.

The SACLAP Council is currently working on an exit strategy and procurement procedure in order to have a new Registrar in place for the New Year and should you have any constructive and creative input please feel free to contact the President on barend.smit@aurecongroup.com.

If you know of anyone that may be interested in fulfilling this function, please advise the individual to make contact with the Registrar's office.

4. **Condolences**

SACLAP would like to, on behalf of the profession extend our condolences to the Townshend family on the loss of Derek Townshend. Derek was no stranger to the landscape architectural fraternity, particularly in Gauteng. His expertise, especially in the Visual Impact Assessment environment will be missed.

Condolences are also extended to Aso Balan (the assistant to the Registrar) and her family, on the loss of her sister.

SACLAP reminds you to please contact the Registrar at registrar@saclap.org.za for additional queries and comments on matters affecting the landscape sector.

Yours sincerely

Barend Smit (President)