



29 September 2016

MEMO FROM THE PRINCIPAL

TO ALL STUDENTS, PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND STAFF MEMBERS

Introduction

It is the end of the third term of 2016. The September exams in preparation for the final November exams were written and the College is in the process to finalize the ICASS and ISAT marks to be sent to the DHET Exams Department. During September the College experienced protest activities by NCV Level 3 students due to a misunderstanding regarding the NSFAS Bursaries awarded to students in 2015. There was some disruption at the George, Mossel Bay and Bitou campuses which created frustration to those students who were busy writing their examinations and attending their classes. I wish to thank everyone for their cooperation during this period of protest. Despite disruptions all students completed their September exams.

November 2016 Exams

The final year exams will be written from October to November 2016. Students must please take note that TVET College students writes national exams. The Final Exam time table and exam papers are set by the DHET Exams department and it falls outside the control of the College. If a student miss the November exam the student will have to repeat the year to build up an ICASS and ISAT mark and will only be able to write the exam at the end of next year. Colleges' exams are very different to exams at Universities. Universities sets their own exam time tables and exam papers. We urge all students to study hard to ensure that you will write and pass during the November 2016 exams. If students do not write their exams in November 2016 they will also not qualify for a NSFAS bursary for 2017 which will have a huge impact on them not being able to complete their studies. Parents or guardians will then be responsible to pay for their studies.

NSFAS bursaries 2016

The total amount of NSFAS bursaries for 2016 was R28,510,00.00 which included an additional amount of R3 million that was received during 2016 from NSFAS. During January 2016 the College approached DHET for additional funding for bursaries and the Services SETA then confirmed that the SETA will provide the amount required to pay allowances to students who qualify for the NSFAS bursary for tuition fees. The shortfall in the original amount of NSFAS meant that students could not receive the maximum amount for allowances (accommodation or travel according to the guidelines). After the SETA undertook to assist, the College was in a position to assist all returning students who have passed NCV: 7/7, 6/7 & 5/7 subjects and the Report 191: 4/4 & 3/4 subjects. Due to the fact that the College received R28,510,000.00 from NSFAS and R8,287,620.00 was offered by Services SETA, the College Financial Aid Committee (FAC) has requested approval from the Services SETA to utilize the Services SETA funding to assist NCV Level 2 students of 2016, who received a NSFAS bursary for class fees, with allowances. If approval is granted by the Services SETA the College FAC will make a recommendation to the Principal regarding this matter. Originally the Services SETA allocation was planned to cover the shortfall to reach the maximum of the allowance for returning students, but after the current NCV Level 3 students raised their concern about it, it was proposed that the returning students will receive the maximum allowance for travel or accommodation from the NSFAS allocation. All NSFAS claims must be completed by 31 October 2016 after extension was granted by NSFAS.

The Services SETA has not completed their process to finalise the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the College and has to date not paid any of the allocated funding to the College. This is a huge risk for the College, and the College will wait for the final approval of the Services SETA and the signed SLA before the FAC proposal regarding allowances for NCV Level 2 students can be considered. In preparation an analysis was done to identify Level 2 students who might qualify for the allowance. I must stress that this work is only done in preparation and no final decision was made. There will be a consultation process SHOULD the Services SETA approve the request from the College.

NSFAS Bursaries 2015

What are the facts regarding the NSFAS Bursaries of 2015 – current NCV Level 3 students expressed their opinion that the College owe them the allowances not paid in 2015 to NCV Level 2 students. The College received a letter from DHET towards the end of the 2014 indicating how much the NSFAS bursary allocation will be for South Cape TVET College students for 2015. The DHET letter indicated that the NSFAS bursaries for 2015 was R27,066,000. Students applied online for the NSFAS bursary and NSFAS provided the College with a list of students who met the requirements according to the NSFAS means test to receive a NSFAS bursary for tuition fees (class fees) for the next year. Allowances can only be paid, should there be sufficient funding available after all the tuition fees (class fees) bursaries were paid. The NSFAS guidelines also indicate the maximum amount available and the requirements for allowances per annum.

The College, according to the NSFAS Guidelines, appointed the Financial Aid Committee (FAC), who then set the criteria – strictly according to provision in the guideline – to allocate the allowances. Only students who received a NSFAS bursary for tuition (class) fees may receive an allowance if sufficient funding is available after all class fee bursaries were paid. Allowances was only paid to returning students who have passed all their subjects in 2015 due to the limited funding that was available.

SUMMARY: 2015 NSFAS BURSARIES		
NSFAS ALLOCATION	NUMBER OF BURSARIES (STUDENTS)	TOTAL NSFAS BURSARY ALLOCATION: *R27,066,000.00
Tuition fees (class fees)	2,534	R16,757,268.00
Allowances (accommodation and transport)	565 Paid to returning students who passed all their subjects determined by the funding available (no allowances was paid to NCV Level 2 students in 2015 due to insufficient funding). SOPs not issued/accepted included in total*	R8,717,128.00
<i>Credits: Amount to be paid back to NSFAS for 2015 due to students not meeting 80% class attendance, dropped out, etc.</i>	<i>**Please read note below Reconciliation process to be completed to determine final amount of credits</i>	R1,591,604.00 (R2,456,962.40)

****Note:** The College can only claim for those students who have accepted the Schedule of Particulars (SOP) with NSFAS. If a student (NSFAS bursary recipient) receive an allowance but do not attend 80% classes or drop out, NSFAS will indicate it as a credit for that student and the College have to pay the total amount of credits back to NSFAS after the reconciliation process has been completed. The College may not re-allocate the amount of credits to any other student. This means that the total amount of credits as shown in ** above will be paid back to NSFAS. It is clear that there was no money available in the NSFAS bursary allocation for allowances for NCV Level 2 in 2015.

The College has done all it could to assist the students with the NSFAS bursaries received in 2015. This matter was tabled at the College Council meeting and Council expressed their understanding of the fact that there was insufficient NSFAS funding to pay allowances to first entry students (NCV Level 2, N1 and N4) in 2015. Council communicated the decision that no funding was available for allowances for NCV Level 2 students in 2015 and that no allowances can be paid retrospectively, to the NCV Level 3 students of 2016. Council urged students to end their protest and to return to their classes and exams.

Students, parents or guardians and staff who have any further enquiries are requested to send a written enquiry to the relevant Campus Head who will attend to it.

The College has also introduced a Whistle Blowers facility, provided by an independent service provider, to confirm our commitment to ethical behaviour and to prevent fraudulent practices. Please report all unethical behaviour to: 080 131 3551.

May you all enjoy a wonderful holiday and rest well for the last term and final exams!