



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION

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NEWSLETTER NO. 1 OF 2013

Dear registered Professionals and Candidates,

It has been some time since you last received a newsletter. This Council has just about come to the end of its four year term of office. SACLAP would like to take the opportunity to bring you up to date with the developments and progress before the new Council takes over.

Nominations were received early in June for new prospective council members for the next four year term of office (September 2013 to August 2017). A Recommendation Panel reviewed all the nominations and made recommendations to the Minister through SACLAP, after intense deliberations, of persons for appointment to the new Council. SACLAP is now waiting for the appointment letters from the Minister before the new Council could be announced.

SACLAP anticipates the outcome of this appointment in September 2013. And at this stage, a big thank you to all who made themselves available to serve on the new Council.

It has been a difficult term of office for SACLAP to fulfil its mandates with limited resources and numerous resignations from Council. Further to this there were numerous changes at the Ministry (with our third Minister), changes at the Department : Public Works (DPW), as well as at the Council for the Built Environment (CBE).

All the efforts during this term of office to place SACLAP on the map (equal to the other Built Environment Councils) have eventually produced some positive results. The most significant result was the establishment of a task team after a meeting with the Minister of Public Works, Mr Thulas Nexi on the 15 June 2012. The purpose of this task team is to facilitate easier discussion between the Department and the profession.

FEEDBACK FROM DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS - TASK TEAM

SACLAP would like to inform all that finally there are some fruits of the task team meetings:

1. A Professionally Registered Landscape Architect was to be seconded to DPW for a two year contract period to address the inputs that a landscape architect typically would make in such a Department and as per the terms of reference that were circulated by SACLAP. Mr Frans van Wyk has subsequently been seconded and started with the DPW on 2 September 2013 for a two year term of office. Council wishes him all the best and look forward to supporting him to ensure that the profession grows within the DPW.
2. As a result of this appointment, The Department is investigating putting in place a candidate program as for the other built environment professions. Anyone who is interested can email Frans van Wyk directly (Frans.VanWyk@dpw.gov.za).
3. A meeting has been held with the recently appointed Director General, Mr M Dlabantu, on 18 April 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to provide feedback as to the progress of the Task team since its inception.

4. Mr Dlabantu has challenged SACLAP to develop a Sustainability Plan for the profession going forward. Anyone who is willing and or interested in participating in the formulation of this plan is to email the Registrar (registrar@saclap.org.za)

OTHER NEWS IN BRIEF

REGISTRAR'S ASSISTANT

Please take note. SACLAP is happy to announce that the Registrar, Ms Bernadette Vollmer has finally been able to appoint a suitable experienced assistant namely Ms Aso Balan. Ms Balan has a background in a Built Environment Council and will assist the Registrar in a half day position. This appointment will result in a more efficient administration of SACLAP.

Welcome Aso!

COUNCIL MATTERS

GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The SACLAP Annual report has been finalised and a clean audit has been attained. A copy thereof will be posted on the website shortly (www.saclap.org.za/downloads under the Governance heading) – please take some time to peruse it.

The SACLAP Strategic Plan has also been updated. A copy thereof will be posted on the website by the end of August 2013.

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION ISSUES

The Registration by Review window was opened and numerous applications have been received. The interviews will take place in the month of September.

Candidates and Mentors are advised that SACLAP has amended the timeframes for candidacy deliverables in order to make the examinations more readily accessible. A declaration form has also been generated specifically for the mentors to assist in the evaluation of the candidate's progress. All of these improvements will be communicated to the registered professionals and candidates in greater detail in the near future.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE MATTERS

A reminder to all registered professionals to please keep a list of all your CPD activities so that once the new Policy document is finalised you are able to insert your points in the appropriate categories.

The process regarding the establishment of the new registration categories is progressing slowly but steadily. The weighting table has been expanded to address the issue of individuals that have up to an Honours Degree qualification and also recognises the differences between the expected educational outcome *versus* candidacy outcomes. This document will be shared with all registered individuals and the public at large as soon as it has been finalised for comment.

In terms of the Identification of Work – thank you to all who have responded to the Competition Commission (CC). Those who have not responded are encouraged to do so as per the recent communication from SACLAP and the CC. Such response will provide part of the public participation required by the CC.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee will be starting the process shortly regarding the revision to the recommended professional fees. Please participate in this process as a stakeholder when the draft proposal is circulated for public comment.

SACLAP also wishes to inform all that it is applying for an exemption on the Gazetting of Guideline Professional Fees. The reason for this is that there is a conflict between our Act and that of the Competition Commission Act, hence the need to go through this process. A meeting is to be set up with the Commission by SACLAP to discuss this matter in greater detail.

This process is being driven by the Council for the Built Environment and the exemption application and the IDoW is being undertaken as a joint application with the CC for all the Built Environment Professional Councils (BEPC).

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Cape Peninsula University of Technology was recently accredited. The accreditation panel found numerous aspects of concern and therefore both the B Tech Landscape Technology and N.Dip Landscape Technology programmes have received conditional partial accreditation. The Education Committee wishes to thank the accreditation panel for their time and input in this accreditation visit.

GENERAL

The Minister of DPW has appointed consultants to undertake the Minister's Intervention Project for a more efficient CBE and BEC's. The purpose of this project is to establish the way forward regarding built environment issues through a process of consultations with all stake holders. This process will in all probability take a considerable time (with no specific outcome predicted at this stage) which means that for the time being Council will function the same as at present however some reporting requirements may change in the future.

As Council has a responsibility to the profession and with the limited resources it is not always possible to know the needs of the registered professionals and candidates. Therefore, PLEASE CONTACT THE REGISTRAR SHOULD YOU FEEL COUNCIL CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE TO YOU OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE COUNCIL TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC ISSUES WITHIN ITS MANDATE.

As the outgoing President, I would like to use this opportunity to thank the out-going Council and the Committees for their dedication and hard work over the past FOUR years. May the new Council build on what has been achieved to date by this Council.

REGARDS

HENDRIK VAN DER HOVEN