Draft Policy Framework on Internationalisation of Higher Education in South Africa

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Overview

- Background
- The Status Quo
- Rationale for Policy Framework on Internationalisation of HE in SA
- Necessary Elements for Effective Policy Framework on Internationalisation of Higher Education in South Africa
Background

- The DHET has been working on the development of Policy Framework on Internationalisation of Higher Education (HE) in South Africa.
- The DHET appointed a Working Group in 2013 to suggest a policy framework on the offering collaborative qualifications/degrees.
Another Working Group was appointed in November 2014 to assist with the development of the policy framework on internationalisation and incorporate the recommendations on collaborative degrees.

Now, the performance target is to have the policy published in the government gazette by 31 March 2017 after consultation with the sector.
Meantime, the DHET and CHE agreed on the interpretation and extrapolation of current policy as status quo, which is,

- that, the policy does not bar knowledge mobility; institutions from entering into collaborative research and teaching; or joint degree/qualification offerings; and,
- that, all programme offerings which are a local component of collaborative offerings and qualifications must be accredited by the HEQC as with all other HE programmes.
Rationale

- HEIs in SA are involved in a number of international collaborative research; knowledge, academic and scholarship exchanges; mobility of programmes, students and scholars; joint programme offerings and qualifications; and co-curriculum development;

- A policy framework that enhances internationalisation of Higher Education (HE) in SA, in order to accrue its benefits both to HE and the economy is required.
Elements for Effective Policy Framework

- The policy should, foremost, seek to benefit South African HE and economy, without necessarily being commercial (e.g. embrace SADC Protocol on HE and Training);
- It must be overarching, inform and provide for alignment of individual institutional policies;
- It must incorporate the offering of collaborate or joint degrees or qualifications;
Elements for Effective Policy Framework

- The policy framework must facilitate rather than impede knowledge development and mobility, and enhance HE in SA;
- It must be transformative with a view to also benefit HDIs;
- It must not compromise on the quality of programmes offered in collaborative degrees/qualifications and allow for institutions to maintain their independence and autonomy;
Elements for Effective Policy Framework

- The policy framework must seek to have measures that guard against potentially negative effects associated with internationalisation (e.g. convergence &/or isomorphism);
- It must build in measurability of its impact on HE system in SA (thus, it must be evaluated); and
- It must primarily focus on post-graduate studies and knowledge mobility;
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