

COUNCIL NEWS APRIL 2009

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR THE QUANTITY SURVEYING PROFESSION



THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL
for the
QUANTITY SURVEYING PROFESSION

DIE SUID-AFRIKAANSE RAAD vir die **BOUREKENAARSPROFESSIE**

Established in terms of the Quantity Surveying Profession Act 2000 (Act 49 of 2000)
Ingestel ingevolge die Wet op die Bourekenaarsprofessie 2000 (Wet 49 van 2000)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is said that a camel is a horse created by a committee. The SACQSP is not a camel created by members of the Council. It is a regulatory instrument and a governance structure created by an Act of Parliament, Act 49 of 2000.

As a regulatory instrument, the SACQSP affects every registered and aspiring quantity surveyor in South Africa. It licences registered persons to practice and, through various committees, regulates the training content, ethics and disciplines of the profession. Act 49 of 2000 confers on the Council the mandate to:

1. Register professional persons and maintain the register.
2. Establish annual registration fees to cover the functions of the Council.
3. Conduct accreditation visits and vet academic programmes on their suitability for training professional quantity surveyors.
4. Advise the Minister of Public Works, any other Minister or the CBE on any matter relating to the quantity surveying profession.
5. Encourage and itself undertake research into matters relating to the quantity surveying profession.
6. Take any steps it considers necessary for the protection of the public in their dealings with registered persons, for the maintenance of the integrity, and the enhancement of the status of the quantity surveying profession.
7. Take any steps it considers necessary for the improvement of the standards of services rendered by registered persons.

As the term of this Council comes to an end in September 2009, this is my farewell address to registered persons as president of the Council. I wish therefore to enumerate the key achievements of this Council through its Committees during the past four years, 2005 – 2009.

EDUCATION, STANDARDS AND RESEARCH (ESR) COMMITTEE

1. **Programme accreditation:** All institutions in the RSA offering quantity surveying programmes will be accredited by 31 July 2009. Previously five (5) Universities were accredited until 31 December 2003, with one university in Candidacy Phase.
2. **Development of Policies:** The following policies are now in place: (i) Accreditation (ii) Examination (iii) Refined/ revised CPD Policy.



3. SACQSP permission was given for use of SACQSP Accreditation Policy to serve as the basis for RICS recognition of University quantity surveying programmes offered by institutions north of the Zambezi.
4. The 1st SACQSP/ESR Research Conference was successfully held on 10 October 2008.
5. Authorship of SACQSP Professional Skills Modules has commenced. "Ethics" Module has been drafted and "moderated". Achieving credits in the Skills Modules will replace current Council Examinations Parts I and II from 2013.
6. CPD compliance by PrQSS is at exceptionally positive level.
7. *Acta Structilia* has been endorsed by both RICS and SACQSP for CPD purposes.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

1. The highest volume in SACQSP history of applications for registration in terms of Act 49 of 2000 was received during 2008/2009.
2. The evaluation / assessment of submissions by SACQSP Assessors and APC Interviewing Panels throughout the RSA is now streamlined and excellent quality of submissions has been achieved.
3. Wide domain knowledge of Assessors and their international affiliation has been documented, e.g., membership of RICS panels and committees.
4. The Registrar's office has provided career-development / mentoring advice to Candidates.
5. Database of registered persons is up-to-date; "Struck" PrQSS and Candidates applying for re-registration are processed timeously. A list of these persons will shortly be published in the Government Gazette.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

1. The Council's finances have strengthened since 1 July 2007 when Council set up an administrative office separate from the combined administration with the ASAQS.
2. Council's annual financial reporting has been streamlined to achieve more accurate and timeous reports.
3. Council has resourced the Registrar's office adequately in terms of personnel and equipment to provide effective and efficient services to registered persons and the general public.

FEES COMMITTEE

1. The Fees Committee has developed a fully revamped 2009 Tariff of Professional Fees and Time Charges.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

1. As at 1 July 2007, only 2 "complaints" were handed over to the Committee. Since then, 14 complaints have been received and are being administered. The Committee responds timeously to incoming issues.

ADMINISTRATION

1. The Registrar's office now maintains an active, accurate, actual database of registered persons.
2. The register reflects significant "movement" of registered persons (between firms within the RSA; moving to offshore employment; returning to the RSA from offshore/cross-border locations) of all currently registered PrQSS and Candidates in good standing until 31 March 2009.
3. The Registrar's office has issued a call for nominations of persons to serve on the 3rd Council in Government Gazette 31925 on 27 February 2009.
4. The Registrar's office arranges meetings timeously and minutes are drafted immediately and accurately after meetings.
5. Circulation of information from the Registrar's office is prompt.

GENERAL

1. The Council has made excellent progress on all fronts.
2. The Council fulfils its mandatory obligation of submitting to the CBE all SACQSP reports before CBE deadlines (4 quarterly; 1 annual; numerous other ad hoc requirements).

continued on page 3

2009 SACQSP RESEARCH CONFERENCE – DURBAN

- Conference date: **Saturday, 17 October 2009**
- Venue in Durban: **to be confirmed**
- Management and administration of papers / referees: **Professor JJP Verster**

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2005 – 2009

Back row – from left to right:
Inge Pielerse, Mark Grant, Professor Tinus Moritz, Francois Pretorius, Lindile Mteza, Paul Kgole, Glenda Pasley, Hennie van der Kolf, Jessica Moodley.

Front row – from left to right:
Prof Gaye Le Roux (Registrar), Ellie van den Hoven (Vice President), The Hon Mr Geoff Doidge (Minister of DPW), Professor Raymond Nkado (President), Lucas Chauke (Immediate Past President), Godfrey Chaone.

Absent: Professor Basie Verster, Maphelo Mogodi



BREAKING NEWS

1 JANUARY 2013: INTRODUCTION OF SACQSP PROFESSIONAL SKILLS MODULES TO REPLACE THE CURRENT COUNCIL EXAMINATIONS PARTS 1 AND 2

QUESTION

What does this mean in practical terms?

ANSWER

Starting on 1 January 2013, all **NEW Candidates** who apply for registration – on or after 1 January 2013 – in terms of the Quantity Surveying Profession Act 2000 (Act No 49 of 2000) will be admitted to Interviews for Assessment of their Professional Competence only if they produce certificates to prove that they have successfully completed all the prescribed SACQSP Professional Skills Modules during their post-qualification terms as **employed, supervised, mentored** Candidates, and their Employers will be required to provide the Council with signed undertakings that they will receive training, gain experience and demonstrate competence in the professional skills described in each Module.

QUESTION

Are these SACQSP Professional Skills Modules available now?

ANSWER

No. The Modules will be published on 1 January 2013.

QUESTION

From 1 January 2013, Where will new Candidates be able to access these SACQSP Professional Skills Modules?

ANSWER

From 1 January 2013 (not before that date!!): www.sacqsp.org.za or by e-mailed request addressed to sacouncil1@sacqsp.co.za.

QUESTION

Should Candidates "SWOT" these Modules on their own without Supervision, Guidance, Mentorship or Practical Experience?

ANSWER

(i) Candidates should – **in their own time** – concentrate on reading the publications listed under **Recommended Reading** attached to each Module.

(ii) Employers / supervisors / mentors are to ensure that their registered Candidates.

- gain the theoretical knowledge and practical experience required to meet the Specific Outcomes and Assessment Criteria described in **each** Module.
- engage the services of a Council-accredited Assessor to establish their pre-requisite levels of competence in terms of **each** Module.
- satisfy the Council-accredited Assessors that they are competent to be awarded the Certificate of Competence in terms of a specific SACQSP Professional Skills Module.
- receive their Certificates of Competence for each successfully-completed Module, for submission to the Council.

QUESTION

Will Candidates be able to Register as "STUDENTS" with a University or College to Study these SACQSP Modules?

ANSWER

Yes. SACQSP-accredited **Providers**, which may be either

- private organisations / providers or
- tertiary institutions

offering programmes leading to the awarding of an NQF Level 7 (480-credit) qualification in quantity surveying, who wish to offer tuition in the SACQSP Professional Skills Modules should ensure that (**at the latest**) by 1 January 2013 their internal administrative routes have been established (eg access to short courses) by which Candidates will be admitted to formal tuition in SACQSP Modules. The private organisations and tertiary institutions will, at their own discretion, select the Modules which they intend to present.

SACQSP-accredited providers may also apply to the Council to serve as SACQSP-accredited **Assessors**, and issue Certificates of Competence in respect of the Modules which they present.

5-YEAR RECIPROcity AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS AND THE SACQSP

Extract from the Agreement:

1. MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS

- In recognition of the common approach to standards and the rigour of SACQSP and RICS qualifications, it is agreed that:
 - Qualified quantity surveyor members of the RICS (MRICS or FRICS), with at least one year's relevant professional experience in South Africa and on submission of a resumé of practical experience gained in South Africa, may be admitted to a professional interview and subsequently registered as a **Professional Quantity Surveyor** (Pr.QS) by the SACQSP.
 - Persons registered with the SACQSP in terms of the Quantity Surveying Profession Act 2000 (Act No 49 of 2000) as **Professional Quantity Surveyors** (Pr.QS) may be admitted to membership of RICS as full members (MRICS) without further assessment requirements.
- Both bodies undertake to exchange information on educational standards, and to advise the other of any significant changes in policy which might affect their mutual recognition of qualifications.
- Each body shall be entitled to charge new members entering through these routes such entrance or registration fee as it considers reasonable.

SACQSP PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION VISITS: 1 MAY – 31 JULY 2009

14 and 15 May Tshwane University of Technology

4 and 5 June Durban University of Technology

8 and 9 June Mangosuthu University of Technology

18 and 19 June Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

25 and 26 June Central University of Technology

6 and 7 July University of Johannesburg

21 and 22 July Walter Sisulu University

27 and 28 July Cape Peninsula University of Technology

30 and 31 July INTEC College, Cape Town

To be confirmed College of Cape Town

continued from page 1

3. The Council has renewed the RICS/SACQSP reciprocity agreement. A 3-year Memorandum of Understanding was signed.
4. ECSA / SACAP / SACQSP have collaborated by jointly commenting on the proposed SACBE Bill No 53 of 2008.
5. SACPCMP and SACQSP have collaborated on accreditation policies.
6. The SACQSP has requested a special category of registration for PrQSS on the SACPVP Register. Discussions with the SACPVP are ongoing.

GENERAL CRITICISMS

Council has been criticised for the high failure rate of candidates who write Council examinations Part 1 and Part 2. These examinations are generally written by candidates who have graduated from non-accredited institutions or are advancing their careers in quantity surveying through experiential learning. The Council has confronted this criticism; in fact, every examination outcome absorbs the energy of Council members sitting in plenary sessions and scrutinising and questioning examination results and suggesting how candidates could be assisted to perform better in subsequent exams. In response to perceptions of discrimination, Council has diversified the number of examiners and moderators. In addition, Council has funded examiners' workshops and insisted on learning materials being specified for candidates.

The problem of poor candidate performance will not go away until **ALL** tertiary institutions offering quantity surveying programmes meet the minimum standards in terms of staff competencies and capacity, library resources and liaison with industry to provide their learners with practical experience of quantity surveying. Council is also willing to listen to other ideas on how to assist candidate quantity surveyors to achieve full professional status. Council is encouraging quantity surveying practices to give the broadest exposure to their inexperienced recruits.

What Council won't do is to issue licences to unqualified persons to practice as PrQSS as this will pose a grave risk to the public and to national development.

In conclusion, I wish to thank every member of this Council for their dedication to Council matters through enthusiastic participation in Council committees, preparation, attendance and participation at Council meetings. I am confident the quantity surveying profession has been enriched by the devotion of these individuals over and above the call to serve on Council on a purely voluntary basis. As president, I have enjoyed the unstinting support and constructive input on Council matters made by each and every member of Council. The dependability and capability of the Registrar and her staff have made Council work much less onerous.

This Council has prepared and will hand over a well-oiled system to the incoming Council in September 2009. The quantity surveying profession in South Africa can rest assured that its regulatory and statutory governance affairs will continue to be well run in the years ahead.

Professor Raymond Nkado, President

AUTHORSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL SKILLS MODULES

The Council's advertisement in Mail and Guardian on 27 March 2009 invited Registered Professional Quantity Surveyors in good standing, who have proven, relevant professional / practical experience, in-depth understanding of practice in the built environment and the construction industry and sound knowledge of teaching / training / mentoring / learning processes to submit their proposals to write the SACQSP Professional Skills Modules. The Terms of Reference for Authors and the list of Modules are available on **written request**, from sacouncil1@sacqsp.co.za

COUNCIL EXAMINATIONS: DECENTRALISATION OF VENUES

On 13 March 2009, the Council approved the decentralisation of examination venues (from a single, national venue in Midrand) to include **Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, Midrand and Port Elizabeth or other centres** where, in the Registrar's opinion, an adequate number of Candidates/Applicants resides. When Candidates submit their applications for admission to the examinations, they will be required to state their choice of venue. After confirmation of admission, each Candidate will receive confirmation of his/her examination venue.

FACES AT THE 2005-2009 COUNCIL FAREWELL FUNCTION

