



# COMMUNIQUE 11 of 2021

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**Date:** 11 November 2021

Dear colleagues,

The Council on Higher Education (CHE), Universities South Africa (USAf), and the University of the Free State (UFS) initiated the *Staff Experience of and Perspectives on Teaching and Learning and its Future* (SEP-TLF) survey. Informed by academic staff development perspectives and pragmatically developed in consultation with the sector, the SEP-TLF survey focused on:

- I. Staff experiences during the pandemic (including a focus on their wellbeing, the support needed, the training staff are receiving, their resilience and adaptability, their access to resources, and the successes and challenges they are experiencing regarding their own work as well as that of their students);
- II. The future of teaching and learning (including reflections on the longer-term impact of the pandemic on teaching and learning practices, as well as quality, and what training and support would need to accompany any changes); and
- III. To ask academic leaders and/or managers to reflect on their experiences, their staff's experiences, and how the institution could best support them as we head towards a 'new normal.'

Twenty-four public higher education institutions participated in the study. The study further complements the Students' Access to and Use of Learning Materials (SAULM) survey, administered in 2020. The knowledge generated through these surveys will contribute to the Reconceptualising Learning and Teaching (RELATE) Project, led by the CHE that aims to understand what the future of learning and teaching is and should be for higher education in South Africa and how can this future be achieved in ways that are equitable and beneficial for the country and its people.

The SEP-TLF survey has been concluded and is attached. Please distribute it further to staff at the university who may find the report useful for their work. The CHE, USAf and UFS are arranging opportunities for the study's findings to be shared and discussed within the sector.



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