

Call for Nomination of Co-opted Members of the Board of the Council on Higher Education (CHE)

The Council on Higher Education (CHE) is an independent statutory body established by the Higher Education Act, No. 101 of 1997, as amended. It is also governed by the NQF Act No. 67 of 2008 which declared it the Quality Council for Higher Education, and further operates as a Schedule 3A public entity in terms of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA, Act 1 of 1999), as amended.

The CHE adheres to principles of good governance, public accountability, independence, transformation and integrity and is accountable to Parliament of the Republic of South Africa.

Council has the overall responsibility for oversight of the CHE and is accountable for the performance of the organisation. Members of Council, its permanent committee, the Higher Education Qualifications Committee (HEQC) and all subcommittees of Council and the HEQC are thus responsible for the overall promotion of and safeguarding of the interests of the CHE and for ensuring that it executes its mandates effectively. In carrying out their functions, Members of Council, the HEQC and all subcommittees are expected to possess a high level of expertise in their fields, are required to be knowledgeable about the higher education sector and are required to uphold the highest standards of ethics.

In addition to the functions of the Council stipulated in the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997 and the National Qualifications Framework Act 67 of 2008 (relevant extract is attached as Annexure B to the Charter), the Council has the following functions subject to the provisions for a Schedule 3A public entity as listed in Chapter 6 of the PFMA:

- a. Provide strategic guidance and oversight to ensure the effective execution of the legislated mandates of the Council;
- b. Establish the statutory committees (the Executive Committee of Council [EXCO], HEQC and Audit and Risk Committee [ARC]) and appoint suitable people to serve on them through a nomination process;
- c. Carry out fiduciary duties which include: (i) exercise the duty of utmost care to ensure reasonable protection of the assets and records of the Council; (ii) act with fidelity, honesty, integrity and in the best interest of the Council in managing the financial affairs of the Council; (iii) disclose to either the Minister of Higher Education and Training or to Parliament, on request, all material facts which may influence decisions or actions of the Minister or Parliament; and (iv) seek to prevent any prejudice to the financial interest of the state;
- d. Ensure that the Council has and maintains: (i) an effective, efficient and transparent systems of financial and risk management and internal control; (ii) a system of internal audit under the control of an audit committee; (iii) an appropriate procurement and provisioning system which is fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective; and (iv) a system of properly evaluating all major projects prior to a final decision on the projects;
- e. Take effective and appropriate steps to ensure: (i) the collection of all revenue due to the Council; (ii) prevention of irregular expenditure, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, losses resulting from criminal conduct, and expenditure not complying with the operational policies of the Council; and (iii) management of available working capital efficiently;
- f. Ensure compliance with tax, levy, duty, pension and audit commitments as required by legislation and Treasury directives;
- g. Ensure that effective disciplinary steps are taken against any employee of the Council who contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of the PFMA; commits an act which undermines the financial management and internal control system of the Council; and makes or permits an irregular expenditure, or fruitless and wasteful expenditure;
- h. Submit to Parliament all reports, returns, notices and information as required by the PFMA;
- i. Promptly inform the National Treasury of any new entity which the Council intends to establish or in the establishment of which it takes the initiative;
- j. Submit to the Director General of the Department of Higher Education and Training a strategic plan, an annual performance plan (APP) and an annual budget by agreed submission dates;
- k. Ensure that full financial records of the Council are maintained, financial statements prepared for each financial year, and that these are submitted to the Auditor General for auditing within two months of the financial year-end; and to the Department of Higher Education and Training within five months of the financial year-end;
- l. Prepare and submit to the Auditor General, and later to the Department of Higher Education and Training, an annual report on the activities of the Council; and
- m. Delegate in writing, any of its powers and duties to the Chief Executive Officer of the Council, subject to limitations and other conditions that Council might impose.

Co-opted members of the Board of the CHE are appointed for a period of three years or the remainder of the unexpired term of office. The term of office is renewable for one additional term.

The Nominations and Governance Committee (NGC) of the CHE is inviting formal nominations of higher education experts who can be appointed to fill a vacant position of co-opted member of the Board of the CHE. Nominees should have the following expertise:

- Insights into the higher education policy environment;
- Acquaintance with discourses on topical issues in higher education in South Africa and globally;
- Research and scholarship on or pertaining to higher education issues;
- Critical reading and review of scholarly documents; and
- Ethics of research and publishing.

A letter from the nominator, a comprehensive CV of the nominee, and a **letter from the nominee** indicating his/her acceptance of nomination should be sent to:

The Organisational Secretary:
Mr TE Netshidzati

Email: netshidzati.t@che.ac.za
Telephone: 083 319 7667

Closing date for receipt of nominations: **28 February 2023**