



higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND NSFAS MEET WITH UNIVERSITY SRCs

DECLARATION ON NSFAS RELATED MATTERS

31 January 2017

Following a meeting between the Minister, Dr B E Nzimande, and University SRC Presidents on Thursday 19 January 2017, the Department convened a follow up meeting at OR Tambo International Airport on 31 January 2017. The meeting was attended by Universities' Student Representative Councils' (SRCs) Presidents and Secretaries General, the South African Union of Students (SAUS), the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS).

The meeting was convened as a follow up to the Minister's Meeting to directly deal with specific matters relating to the NSFAS and affecting the 2017 registration processes.

The meeting received a presentation from the NSFAS Board Chairperson, Mr Sizwe Nxasana. The key issues that were agreed upon are as follows:

- ALL NSFAS funded continuing students who have satisfied the 50% module pass requirement and the N+2 completion requirement are FUNDED in 2017.
- NSFAS funded continuing students are those who have signed Loan Agreement Forms (LAFs) in 2016.
- NSFAS will pay an additional 10% (in addition to the 15% already paid) of the allocation to universities by 3 February for the purposes of allowance payments for admitted, funded students.
- Students from quintile 1, 2 and 3 schools and/or from families dependent on South African Social Service Agency (SASSA) grants automatically qualify for NSFAS financial

aid and, provided they meet the academic requirements of the university and they have been offered a study space, must be allowed to register for a study programme and to a residence place.

- NSFAS and universities will work together to reconcile and confirm funding for these students
- NSFAS will fund approximately 40 000 first time entering students this year from the DHET Funding Category. Thus far, the funding for 20 067 first time entering students has been confirmed.
- The NSFAS is working with universities to share and confirm the list of first time entry students with firm offers from universities.
- The remaining first time entry students who qualify for funding will be confirmed by the NSFAS on Friday, 3 February, working with the universities.
- NSFAS must expedite their processes of Regional Support and must improve communication with universities and the student leadership.

The meeting further agreed on the following:

- The DHET must invite all University Vice Chancellors, SRC Presidents & Secretaries General to a meeting to inform the higher education sector about the agreements of this meeting and to further find lasting solutions for 2017.



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