

8 December 2017

Dear WSU Community

LLB ACCREDITATION

In 2015/16, the Council for Higher Education (CHE) undertook a national review of the LLB programme, a peer-driven exercise which focused on reaccreditation of existing programmes based on the CHE's programme accreditation criteria and the LLB qualification standard.

Subsequent to the initial publication of the outcomes of the LLB national review in April 2017, the CHE called for the submission of plans for improving the quality of the LLB programme.

Walter Sisulu University (WSU) duly submitted its plan to CHE in October 2017 and subsequently learned that the University was unable to convince the CHE that its emergency remedial measures were sufficient to warrant the continuation of the current LLB programme. Accordingly, WSU's LLB programme accreditation was withdrawn. However, the CHE gave WSU latitude to register first-year LLB students in 2018. New students may not be admitted into the current programme from 2019 onwards.

First I must express a word of gratitude to all our communities, especially our current students, for being calm in absorbing this unfortunate episode and for playing a part in helping the WSU Law Faculty think judiciously on how to steer the ship back on track.

The University wishes to clarify the following:

- The withdrawal of future accreditation does not affect the validity of current qualifications or those which current students will be obtaining. In other words, the current LLB is accredited until the cohort which starts in 2018 completes the programme in 2022. We will therefore be able to honour our commitment to LLB students who will register in 2018.
- Given the CHE's concerns, we will be enriching the current curriculum offering to be in line with the CHE's expectations. The curriculum content will be updated and

enhanced to provide effective learning facilitation, modernised assessment tasks and better administrative procedures.

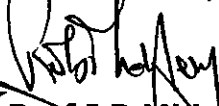
- We will continue to appoint qualified staff and ensure that students receive appropriate tuition and support from academic staff.
- Infrastructure will be improved, including renovation of lecture halls, provision of Wi-Fi connectivity and accessible relevant library services. This applies not only to the LLB programme, but also to other programmes.

I wish to emphasise that the University will still be able to register new students for its LLB programme for the 2018 academic year. Students who are already in the system will be afforded an opportunity to complete their studies, given that there will be a five-year "teach-out" period for the current LLB programme offering. Our earnest plea is for students to make every effort to complete their studies within the prescribed period of study.

The University will make a special effort to submit a new LLB programme to the CHE for accreditation during the course of 2018. We have already embarked on a process of preparing a new academic framework. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor has already been in touch with the CHE so that the process can proceed in earnest at the beginning of next year.

This has been a difficult time for WSU and the withdrawal of accreditation has caused much anxiety among all of us. I can assure you that the University accepts its responsibility to ensure that it offers a quality education to students and will make every effort to develop a new programme that will restore the LLB programme to its former glory.

Yours sincerely



Prof J R Midgley

Vice-Chancellor and Principal