Communiqué

HEMIS INFORMATION

Timetable data is important for the HEMIS space submission. DHET compares the number of students registered (for which we receive subsidy) to the data of the HEMIS Space and Staff submissions showing venues and lecturers available to service the students.

Institutions could be penalized should the data not be acceptable.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON FUNDING 2016/17 AND 2017/18:

7   RELIABILITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HEMIS) DATA SUBMITTED BY UNIVERSITIES

Both block grant calculations and progress reports of earmarked funds depend heavily on reliable audited Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS) data submitted annually by universities to the Department.

The Department will continue to monitor the reliability of the data in the HEMIS submissions. In recent years there has been a tendency for a small number of universities to resubmit their data quite late after the deadline for the third and final HEMIS submission of 31 July has passed, due to errors in their final audited data submission. Such a late resubmission adversely impacts on the planning and verification processes within the Department and on the running of the subsidy allocations.

If the verification process by the Department suggests that a university's data submissions are incorrect, then the university will be required to correct errors and resubmit the amended database with a new audit certificate. Should an institution notify the Department that they have detected an error in their final submission the Department will require the resubmission with the revised audit report by the latest middle of September in order to complete the verification processes. Where necessary, the university may be required to amend the historical databases for the past 3 years. If this is deemed necessary, the university's block grants or earmarked funds for specific years will be re-calculated for the past 3 years according to Section 11 (d) of the Prescription Act, No 68 of 1969, and any over-payments for these 3 years will be deducted from future budgets to the applicable university before new funds are paid to the university.

The Department will also, when necessary, make adjustments to any data of the university, which the Department uses for funding purposes, if the data and/or the progress reports submitted to the Department, whether endorsed by external auditors or not, indicate that a university has not complied with the Department's policies/HEMIS directives, or if analyses undertaken by the Department indicate that a university's data submissions for block and earmarked funds are flawed. It is the responsibility of a university to ensure that it complies at all times to the policies and directives issued by the Department.

The no timetables error report will be adjusted where possible but it seems there may be subjects on the academic structure that are not marked as WIL but feedback from the academic staff has shown there are no classes for these subjects. This need further investigation to establish where the issue is and if senate approval is required for changes to the academic structure.

It will be difficult to programmatically exclude phase out subjects from the no timetables error report because in some instances the registered students are serviced in the class with the students of the new subject but sometimes the students registered for phase out subjects will have their own classes.

Subjects marked as Research, project and WIL on the academic structure have been excluded from the no timetables error report.

The 2016 no timetables error report will be circulated after the 2nd semester timetables have been captured.