



## ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

### *Standards and Procedures System*

## **Policy for handling of Appeals against Accreditation decisions: BSc(Eng) / B Eng Programmes**

**Status: Approved by University Accreditation Committee**

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### **1. Introduction**

The University Accreditation Committee (UAC) acts under powers delegated by the Council in terms of section 10 of the Act, which reads as follows:

*"10(1) The Council may delegate to ... the education advisory committee or a subcommittee thereof such of its powers as it may deem fit, but shall not be divested of any power which it may have so delegated."*

The following powers have been delegated to the UAC (only relevant clauses):

*"4(20)(e) after consideration of the full reports of accreditation teams, to grant provisional, full and conditional accreditation to degree programmes and to withhold accreditation from non-accredited programmes, as the case may be;*

*(f) after consideration of the full reports of accreditation teams, to recommend to the executive committee or to the Council, whichever meets first, withdrawal of accreditation of any degree programme;"*

Two cases arise in which a provider may be aggrieved:

- Representations prior to the UAC Meeting to consider the report of the accreditation team; and
- Appeal against a decision of the UAC taken at Meeting to consider the report of the accreditation team .

Procedure to be followed in the former case is defined in document PE-70 section 8.3. The Appeal procedure follows.

### **2. Procedure : Handling of Appeals after UAC decision**

The UAC must, in the normal course of events and in terms of its procedures

- consider the findings and recommendations of the team, together with any representations made by the provider;
- decide in terms of the powers delegated to it by the Council; and
- advise the provider of its decision accordingly.

If a provider is aggrieved by the decision of the UAC the following procedure must be followed:

1. The Provider concerned may appeal to the Council by lodging such appeal, in writing, with the Chief Executive Officer within 30 days from the date on which the Provider has been notified by the Chief Executive Officer of the decision of the UAC.
2. An appeal lodged in terms of paragraph 5 must set out the grounds on which the provider seeks to rely and provide such information as is necessary to support these grounds.
3. The Council, or the Executive Committee or the Management Committee, when the Council is not in session, may -
  - (a) confirm the decision of the UAC; or
  - (b) establish a review panel to consider the grounds for the appeal and to make recommendations to the Council, the Executive Committee or the Management Committee, whichever is in session.
4. The review panel, appointed by the Council or the Executive Committee after consultation with the provider concerned, shall consist of at least four professional engineers, of whom one shall be a visit leader (where more than one programme is under review), or a team leader (where only one programme is under review). No member of the original team shall be a member of the panel.
5. The review panel referred to in paragraph 3(b) may -
  - (a) study all documentation relating to the accreditation visit in the Council's possession, including any prior representations made and information submitted by the provider;
  - (b) if it considers it necessary, interview such affected parties as may be necessary to fulfill its functions properly.
6. The review panel shall submit its report to the Council, the Executive Committee or the Management Committee, whichever is in session, within three months from the date on which the panel has been established.
7. The Council, Executive Committee or the Management Committee, as the case may be, may-
  - (a) confirm the finding and recommendations of the review panel;
  - (b) amend the finding and/or recommendations of the review panel; or
  - (c) refuse to accept the finding and recommendations of the review panel and make a decision as it considers reasonable under the circumstances.
8. The Chief Executive Officer shall forthwith advise the provider concerned of the decision of the Council and inform the UAC accordingly at its next scheduled meeting.