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GUIDELINES ON ETHICAL ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY INTERACTION

In every relationship in which staff and students may become involved in community interaction, they are faced with ethical responsibilities which they have to meet in ways that comply with the relevant ethical norms.

Community interaction at Stellenbosch University should be in compliance with the **Constitution of the Republic of South Africa** and all other relevant **laws, rules and regulations of the country**.

Staff members and students are also expected to inform themselves constantly of the content of **ethical codes in the respective disciplines / fields** in which they conduct their community interaction initiatives and to act in accordance with those codes to the extent that they are applicable to them.

Community interaction at Stellenbosch University should also be in compliance with the **values of Stellenbosch University**; especially the following:

Participation. The people who are substantially affected by our decisions must have an effective say in the making of those decisions.

Transparency. We must base our decisions on considerations that are clear and that are known.

Readiness to Serve. In all we do, we must seek to serve the best interest of the broad communities of our immediate vicinity, of our region, of our country, of our continent and of the world in general.

Tolerance and Mutual Respect. We must respect the differences between personal beliefs, between points of view, and between cultural forms of expression. We must strive to foster an institutional culture that is conducive to tolerance and to respect for fundamental human rights and that creates an appropriate environment for teaching, learning, research *and community interaction*.

Scholarship. Our research, teaching, *community interaction* and management must be characterized by the kind of objectivity and critical thinking that is intrinsic to excellent scholarly and scientific practice.

Responsibility. We seek to be responsible, both by seriously considering the implications of actions, and by being responsive to the needs of the broader community, of South Africa as a whole, of our continent, and of the world in general.

Academic Freedom. As an accountable public higher education institution, (i) we acknowledge, at the institutional, faculty and departmental levels, our right to exercise our academic freedom in a responsible way, in teaching and learning, in

research and in *community interaction*, and

(ii) we reject unreasonable strictures of any kind on our endeavours.

(Extract from the Stellenbosch University Strategic Framework, adapted)

Individual staff members and students should act in an ethically justifiable manner with regard to all aspects of any community interaction initiative they undertake, **including community interaction initiatives that have not been specifically submitted for the University's ethical approval.**

The **registration** of community interaction projects by faculties and student structures are conditional on the acceptance of this Code by faculty members and students involved in the projects that are being registered.

In case of transgressions of this Code by **students**, the disciplinary procedures contained in the Student Rules of Stellenbosch University will apply.

In case of transgressions of this Code by **staff members**, the disciplinary procedures for staff members contained in the human resources policy of Stellenbosch University will apply.