


**Higher Education Quality Committee  
The Council on Higher Education**  
Pretoria, South Africa

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Date: 23 June 2015

Re: **Joint, external supervision and external examination & letter of support**

Dear Chairperson

I am aware of the *South African Institute for Heritage Science and Conservation's* application before the Council, and by which the candidate institution invites accreditation of a postgraduate diploma programme in technical conservation studies.

Earlier this year, I had opportunity to participate in a 3-day workshop in South Africa, convened by the *Andrew W. Mellon Foundation* in collaboration with the *University of Pretoria*, and hosted at the latter's campus in Pretoria. The subject of this workshop was "*Conservation Training in South Africa*". Among the local attendees, counted eight South African universities, the Department of Arts & Culture, representatives from the heritage sector (archives, museums, libraries, etcetera) as well as numerous other stakeholders. This workshop was also well-attended by international delegates, drawn from formal sectors within conservation. Foreign institutions represented at the workshop included the Courtauld Institute, the University of California, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Getty Program, SRAL (Netherlands), and Yale University, amongst others.

It became abundantly clear from the proceedings that need exists in South Africa for formally accredited conservation training programmes, as none such currently exist. It soon became apparent that, while the *South African Institute for Heritage Science and Conservation* was valued widely for its sustained contributions to this emerging field since 1994, this institution is yet to attain formal standing as an institution of higher learning. Given that this is indeed *new* terrain which is being contemplated, start-up obstacles may accompany and it is to this end that we are able to offer the following assistance:

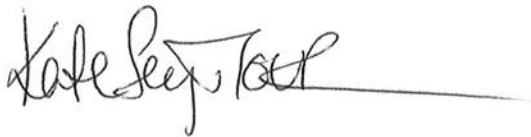
Given the current absence of conservation training programmes in South Africa, the

availability in principle of the following external support and evaluation services may therefore understandably prove pertinent to the Council's considerations:

- External Supervisors
- External Examiners

As Head of Education at Stichting Restauratie Atelier Limburg (SRAL) I am willing to assist, insofar as is practicable, with regard to external supervision and external examination of the research project of a certain, modest agreed upon number of postgraduate students of the Institutes programme in technical conservation studies. I hope that this will be an ongoing collaborative arrangement set for an agreed upon period of time. Timeframes and student numbers will be agreed upon closer to the start date of the course.

I wish the *South African Institute for Heritage Science and Conservation's* every success with its accreditation application - both on its own behalf as provider, *and* in respect to this long-awaited, postgraduate programme. My very best wishes also accompany conservation training and practice in South Africa more generally, as it begins its onward march!



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