

Re: SAIT//TAX FACULTY: CPD

1 message

Keith Engel <kengel@thesait.org.za>

Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 11:15 AM

To: Stiaan Klue <sklue@taxfaculty.ac.za>

Cc: Dr Ferdie Schneider <Ferdie.Schneider@gmail.com>, Ferdie Schneider <ferdie@stakonsult.com>, Duane Newman <dnewman@cova-advisory.co.za>, Angela Cherrington <angela@yourhub.co.za>, "P.J. Veldhuizen" <pj@gvinc.co.za>, Michelle Landman <mlandman@thesait.org.za>, "Joel, Botlhale" <bjoel@deloitte.co.za>, "Malapela, Kabelo" <kmalapela@deloitte.co.za>, Pieter Janse van Rensburg <pieterjvensburg@ajmtax.co.za>, Chris Jordan <chris@jvaa.co.za>, Craig Hirst <craig.hirst@trident-ta.com>, Annet Oguttu <annet.oguttu@up.ac.za>, Lerato Legadima <leratolegadima@gmail.com>, Rodney Smith <rodney@liandor.co.za>, Chris van Dyk <admin@vdhlegal.co.za>, johan@jvaa.co.za

Mr Klue

This is in response to your email dated 14 September 2022.

We do not share the same understanding of the situation as you allege. We also take exception to your chronic harassment of SAIT's stakeholders on multiple occasions.

Turning to the matter at hand:

1. We are fully aware of the pre-existing CPD provider-accreditation policy established during your tenure. The application process was administratively onerous, contained numerous fees and had to be renewed every three years.
2. The burdensome nature of the pre-existing CPD provider accreditation policy effectively dissuaded third-party training organisations from ever applying.
3. We are also fully aware of the 2018 accreditation document to which you refer. Our investigation revealed that this accreditation never went through the formal process and approval normally required. None of the standard documentation required was submitted based on our records, and all fees were waived. The agreement was set for a 5-year term as opposed to the normal three-year term for reasons unknown. Given these deviations, the alleged accreditation is grossly irregular, contrary to policy and has no status whatsoever.
4. It is patently evident from our understanding of the situation that you once again acted contrary to policy and outside of your scope of authority (if any). The SAIT staff operated under your instruction and implicit understanding that they had to act as you commanded. I (as CEO) was never properly apprised of the details of this alleged CPD accreditation until long after it was drafted. Given that the alleged 2018 accreditation was provided under circumstances wholly outside of SAIT policy, this unique deviation can only be justified from a SAIT governance perspective as being in support of the SAIT/ Tax Faculty agreement. So, in our eyes, the unique nature of this accreditation does indeed mean that the SAIT / Tax Faculty agreement is tied (or void as a matter of principle) and should end when the SAIT / Tax Faculty agreement ends.
5. Had the accreditation been set under the normal three-year term, the due date for re-accreditation would have been the close of August 2021.
6. The 2018 accreditation document also cannot be read as a blank check. It is clear that SAIT has the power to monitor the agreement on an annual basis and to review quality, implying that SAIT has the power to revoke if SAIT views the situation as unsatisfactory.
7. The overall SAIT accreditation policy was revised earlier this year. The new policy has no fees and removes burdensome administration. The new policy focuses solely on the core essentials. The goal is to provide SAIT members with more CPD choice.

It should be noted that the net effect of the old accreditation policy and the 2018 accreditation document was to leave the Tax Faculty in a false monopoly over SAIT membership CPD. The Tax Faculty was allowed to offer CPD to SAIT members while the others had effectively been pushed away. In my mind, this outcome serves as a good example of how the Special Advisor / Founder role was mainly used to benefit yourself and your alter ego – the Tax Faculty.

* * * *

In light of the above, and in recognition of the desire for SAIT members to have more choice, we plan to proceed as follows:

- I. The Tax Faculty must apply for renewed accreditation as stated in our prior email dated 10 September 2021.
- a. The terms of the renewal will be based on the new application standard, which are much less onerous as mentioned above.
 - b. The application forms and dates of action required will be transmitted before 1 October.
 - c. Tax Faculty accreditation will remain in place in the meantime (i.e. past 1 October).
- II. The website references of concern regarding the Tax Faculty's accreditation are being removed.
- II. Lastly, we note that SAIT's decision to accredit or deny is a decision under the sole discretion of SAIT. Our willingness to engage on this matter should not be read as a concession that the Tax Faculty has any legal authority in this regard.

Regards

Keith Engel

Chief Executive Officer



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On Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 2:25 PM Stiaan Klue <sklue@taxfaculty.ac.za> wrote:

*****URGENT*****

Dear SAIT Board,

I refer to the trailing emails below, and the notice published this afternoon (<https://www.thesait.org.za/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1553506&group=>) on the SAIT website stating that The Tax Faculty CPD training is not accredited effective 1 October 2021.

Attached hereto please find our letter of accreditation dated **20 August 2018**.

The ongoing harassment and calculated conduct to cause harm to The Tax Faculty and its beneficiaries must cease immediately. This conduct is highly irregular and is causing serious reputational damage to The Tax Faculty and our ability to fulfil our mandate. We respectfully request that the SAIT Board direct that this notice be removed immediately.

Sincerely,

Stiaan Klue
Executive Dean & CEO

The Tax Faculty

WE DO E-LEARNING SO YOU CAN DO LIFE  www.taxfaculty.ac.za

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On Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 9:44 AM Stiaan Klue <sklue@taxfaculty.ac.za> wrote:

Dear Keith,

Just a friendly reminder about the apparent confusion re the SLA termination vis-a-vis TTFs accreditation as a provider.

As stated, I checked with colleagues, and I reconfirm that the termination of the SLA does not have a bearing on the continuous delivery and quality of training offered by TTF as a provider. Please let me know if you managed to clarify this confusion on your end.

I appreciate that Craig engaged with Ferdie earlier this year. To this end I was instructed by Craig to ensure that TTF remains committed to its founding objective to work in full support of SAIT to further education and transformation in South Africa.

I look forward to receiving your positive feedback.

Kind regards,
Stiaan

Stiaan Klue
Executive Dean & CEO

The Tax Faculty

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On Fri, Sep 10, 2021 at 12:10 PM Stiaan Klue <sklue@taxfaculty.ac.za> wrote:

Good afternoon Keith,

I trust that you are keeping well. We still experience winter down here in the Cape.

Keith, we need to be careful not to conflate, or confuse, the CPD service level agreement (SLA) and the CPD accreditation status of TTF. We do believe that the termination of the SLA should not have a bearing on our CPD offering and accreditation. Please let me know if we have the wrong impression in this regard.

As you know, the SAIT CPD accreditation policy was initiated in 2014 and designed to ensure that a minimum tax technical standard and a formal quality management oversight process be required of Tax CPD providers. We understand that providers are required to have adequate measures of quality assurance, management and monitoring on their CPD offerings in place and ensure CPD offerings consider each SAIT membership designation applicable and structure their CPD offerings accordingly.

To date we have not received any complaint about the quality and standard of TTF CPDs, and we will continue to work hard to ensure that this high standard remains. Whatever your concern is in regard to the future quality of the TTF CPDs, please do let me know as soon as you identify anything.

On the other second matter raised in your letter in paragraph 3: I confirm that TTF has, in addition to seeking advice from a Senior Council, actively engaged and consulted the relevant government departments, namely DHET and QCTO and have obtained assurance that TTF is permitted to offer short learning programmes.

However, I appreciate that you remain concerned about some elements. May I kindly suggest that we seek guidance and counsel from an independent education specialist? I suggest we sit together with an independent specialist and work towards a mutual constructive outcome and future free from any concerns.

Please let me know your thoughts to move forward in the most constructive manner possible.

Regards,

Stiaan

On Fri, Sep 10, 2021 at 10:01 AM Keith Engel <kengel@thesait.org.za> wrote:

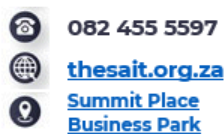
Dear Stiaan

Attached please find a letter for your attention.

Regards

Keith

Chief Executive Officer



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