

## Code of Conduct for members of the NWU Council and Committees of the NWU Council Committee

*APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON 28 MARCH 2018*

In the light of the prescripts of legislation, policies and rules<sup>11</sup> and recognising that the members of a council or committees of the council

- (a) must be persons with knowledge and experience relevant to the objects and governance of the North-West University; and
  - (b) must participate in the deliberations, or exercise any delegation, in the best interests of the North-West University; and in concurrence with the Code of Ethics of the North-West University, as a member of the council or a council-committee:
1. I will at all times expend my knowledge and skills to the benefit of the institution and contribute the best that I am capable of to achieve the aims of the institution.
  2. I will perform my task as a council member or council-committee member with the greatest vigilance, integrity and diligence, will maintain due confidentiality with respect to any information I may receive during the fulfilment of my duties, will only impart information in the best interest of the institution and all its stakeholders at all times and will not by my conduct, whether personal or as a member of council or a committee of council, bring the University into disrepute.
  3. I will not in any way get involved in or interfere with the management of the institution, but will use the legitimate processes of governance to perform my grave responsibility as a council member or council-committee member of the institution.
  4. I will not mislead or influence council or council committees in any inappropriate way; I will not accept gifts or favours or get involved in the appropriation or misuse of university property, harassment, victimisation and discrimination; I will distance myself from any indication of factionalism in council and in council committees.
  5. I will treat my fellow-council and council committee members and all managers at whatever level of the institution with respect; I will govern truthfully and in a balanced way, while, as far as possible, protecting the legitimate reputation of the institution and all its employees, even in exposing and rectifying any possible mal-performance or mismanagement that may be discovered.
  6. I will not participate in council and council-committee activities for personal gain and will not have or allow any conflict of my personal interests, albeit direct or indirect, whether professional, commercial, political, cultural, social or howsoever, with the legitimate interests of the institution, its employees, students or stakeholders.
    - 6.1. Upon assuming office, and annually afterwards, I will declare any business, commercial or financial activities undertaken for financial gain that may rise a conflict or possible conflict of interest with the NWU.
    - 6.2. I will not place myself under any financial or other obligation to any individual or organisation that might seek to influence the performance of any function of the NWU Council.
    - 6.3. I will not have a direct or indirect financial, personal or any other interest in any matter to be discussed at a meeting that entails or may entail a conflict or possible conflict of interest with the NWU; if so, I will inform the chairperson before the meeting of the possible conflict of interest; and in which instance I will recuse myself from a meeting during the discussion of a matter in which a possible conflict of interest might be implied.
    - 6.4. I am aware of the penalising measures when I do not adhere to the stipulations related to conflict or possible conflict of interest that may entail suspension from attending a meeting, or disqualification as council member or member of a committee of council.
  7. I will not speak for or on behalf of the council without being explicitly mandated by the council to do so, but will refer any questions put to me or information given to me to the chairperson or person appointed by the council to deal with such matters.
  8. I will confidentially bring any conduct that comes to my attention and which contravenes the letter or spirit of this code, whether it happened within the University or not, to the attention of the chairperson of council, or to any other person designated for that purpose by the council, and will participate fully in any appropriate steps that may be taken to rectify any wrong that may have happened.
  9. I will notify the chairperson of council of my immediate resignation if at any time I should stop being a member of the stakeholder group that elected me to council, or should I for some other reason no longer qualify to be a member in the category of membership in which I became a member in the first place.
  10. I understand that the council has statutory disciplinary powers over members and that any contravention by me of the spirit or letter of this Code will lead to disciplinary steps being taken against me. I will participate fully in any fair process and I accept that my conduct as a member may be censured by the council or any person or group of persons designated by the council to do so, and that my membership may be terminated by the council in the exercise of its disciplinary powers.

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<sup>11</sup> The Higher Education Act, Act No 101 of 1997 (section 27, , the Statute of the North-West University ( par 4(5)(f)(h), the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act No 2 of 2000, and Principle 1 of the King IV Report on Corporate Governance of South Africa.