

## 24. Theological School and Training

### 24.1 REPORT 1: CURATORS THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL POTCHEFSTROOM – GENERAL INFORMATION (Artt 176, 177, 183)

- A. Dr D Lartz tables the Report.
- B. The Report will be concluded during the Synod session.

#### C. REPORT

##### 1. Mandate

###### 1.1 *General Assignment of the Curators*

The Curatorium of the Theological School Potchefstroom manage and supervise the service of training conducted by the professors of the Theological School as well as the supervision of theological students (*Prospektus van die Teologiese Skool van die GKSA Potchefstroom 1997, Chapter 3*) (cf. Acta 1988:400-403).

###### 1.2 *Specific instructions of Synod 2012 to the Curators*

The specific instructions to the Curators and the decisions the Curators must execute are recorded in other Reports.

**Decision: Points 1.1 and 1.2 noted.**

##### 2. Matters that the Synod take note of

###### 2.1 *The Curatorium*

###### 2.1.1 Curators

The constitution of the Curatorium occurred on 9 January 2012.

###### 2.1.2 Election of Chairman of the Curators 2012

Dr DG Breed was elected as Chairman of the Curators and dr SJ van der Walt as Vice-chairman. Dr D Lartz was elected as Deputy-scribe and finances was entrusted to rev EJ Tiemensma. Rev PM Modise was elected as additional member of the Management committee.

###### 2.1.3 Recommendation for nomination of a community leader as member of the Council of the NWU

According to the Statutes of the NWU, four community leaders are nominated to be members of the Council of the NWU in an open nomination process and the Expanded Management Committee (EMC) of the Potchefstroom campus review the nominations.

Dr DG Breed served on this council for two terms and his term comes to an end during 2014. The Rector of the NWU asked the Curators to advise on the nomination for the next term. The Curators' Management committee recommended dr SJ van der Walt to the Dean on 20 January 2014, for nomination to the NWU's council.

###### 2.2 *The Broad Curatorium*

The Broad Curatorium (cf. Acta 1991:503, 506, 507; Acta 1994:650) is responsible for the election and calling of professors and also for exercising discipline over the professors, in accordance to CO, art 79-80 (cf. procedures in Acta 1991:733; 1994:465). The Broad Curators were convened twice for the calling of professors at the time of reporting.

###### 2.2.1 Installation of prof HG Stoker

Dr HG Stoker was called as professor of Ethics during a calling meeting on 23 June Junie 2011. He was installed into office on 28 January 2012.

###### 2.2.2 Installation of prof SP van der Walt

Dr SP van der Walt was called as professor of Dogmatics during a calling meeting on 23 June 2011. He was installed into office on 28 January 2012.

### 2.2.3 Calling and installation of prof DF Muller

The Curators decided, at their meeting on 15-16 November 2011, to release prof PH Fick for a period of six years that he may assume the position of Student dean, in accordance to CO, art 14 (in compliance with the stipulations of Synod 1967:60), retaining his office as minister and ties with the Curators and Theological School.

The Curators furthermore decided that the position would be filled by means of calling. Dr DF Muller was called as professor of Church and Dogma History during a calling meeting on 14 June 2012. He was installed into office on 18 August 2012.

### 2.2.4 Calling and installation of prof RS Hobyane

The Dean of the Faculty of Theology requested the Curators on 18 March 2013 to call dr RS Hobyane, lecturer of Greek at the time, for consideration as professor of the New Testament – with assignment Greek. The Curators approved such request on 16 July 2013 and requested the Management committee to review the financial as well as church law aspects.

Dr RS Hobyane was called as professor in the New Testament, with assignment Greek, at a calling meeting on 13 November 2013. He accepted the calling and was released by GK Promosa on 7 January 2014. He was installed into office on 25 January 2014.

### 2.2.5 Calling and installation of prof FP Kruger

A vacancy opened up in the subject group Practical Theology upon prof RS Letšosa's acceptance of the post of Vice-rector Teaching-Learning at the NWU's Potchefstroom campus, retaining the office of minister and ties to the Curator and Theological School. The Curator Management committee decided on 19 August 2013 that this chair would be filled according to the usual calling procedure.

Dr FP Kruger was called as professor in Practical Theology at a calling meeting on 13 November 2013. He accepted the calling and was released by GK Meyerspark on 1 February 2014. He was installed into office on 8 February 2014.

### 2.2.6 Calling and installation of prof IW Ferreira

The Curators released prof TD Mashau from his position on 19 February 2013, to accept the calling at GK Pretoria-Brooklyn. The Curators installed dr PJ Buys as acting professor of Missiology for the remainder of 2013, until the vacancy could be filled by calling.

Dr IW Ferreira was called as professor of Missiology at a calling meeting on 13 November 2013. He accepted the calling and was released by GK Rietvallei. He was installed into office on 12 April 2014.

## 2.3 *The Senate TSP*

### 2.3.1 Rectorate

Prof GJC Jordaan was appointed Rector of the Theological School, from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2012. He was re-elected for a further term in June 2012. Prof Jordaan indicated that he would only be able to serve as Rector until June 2015.

In June 2012 the Curators decided to elect two Vice-rectors to the TSP. Prof RS Letšosa was elected as Vice-rector Academic Affairs, for the term January 2013 to December 2015, and prof G Breed as Vice-rector Student Affairs. Upon the departure of prof Letšosa, the Management committee of the Curators appointed prof FP Viljoen in August 2013 as acting Vice-rector Academic Affairs until November 2013. Prof FP Viljoen was elected as Vice-rector Academic Affairs, at the Curators' meeting of November 2013, from January 2014 to December 2015.

### 2.3.2 Lecturing staff

#### 2.3.2.1 Publications, conferences and seminars

See Appendix A.

#### 2.3.2.2 Vacancies

At present (May 2014) there are no vacancies at the TSP.

2.3.2.3 Prof PH Fick: Acceptance of position as Student dean at the Potchefstroom campus of the NWU

Prof PH Fick was approached by the NWU for appointment as Student dean for a period of six years, as of 1 January 2012. His continued involvement with the TSP during the interruption of his service as professor at the TSP, in accordance with CO, art 14, entail serving on the Senate; research in his subject field and study guidance of masters and doctoral students in Church and Dogma History; and coordinating the arrangements and completion of the church history tour of students of the TSP. He also presented the module KDGE877 in 2013 and 2014 to final-year students.

2.3.2.4 Prof RS Letšosa: Acceptance of position as Vice-rector designate teaching-learning at the Potchefstroom campus of the NWU

Prof RS Letšosa was approached by the NWU to apply for the position of Vice-rector designate teaching-learning. Prof. Letšosa indicated that he did not want to lose his vocation by accepting this post, as per CO, art 12, but would want to retain the office of minister and remain involved in the church. Given the special relationship between the university and the GKSA, the Curators realised the importance of filling this position for both the GKSA and the NWU. In light of his duty and calling as minister of the Word (especially as theological professor), the Curators found an appropriate (CO, art 14) means for prof Letšosa to accept the position without forfeiting his office. He will continue with research in his subject field, study leader of masters and doctoral student and serve as member of the Senate at the TSP. He was assured of the support of the Senate and Curators and accepted the position in August 2013.

2.3.2.5 Retirement of Prof HF van Rooy

Prof HF van Rooy will retire at the end of 2014, after 31 years and 10 months of services at the TSP. The Curators sincerely thanked him for his years of hard work at TSP and prayed that he and his family be blessed in this next phase of life. The research position he had at the NWU will not be filled by means of calling.

2.3.3 Administrative Staff

The following administrative staff is currently employed by the TSP. It is, furthermore, indicated when the relevant individual is also employed by the Faculty Theology and this faculty contributes to his/her salary:

Registrar: Mrs A du Toit (staff member of the Administrative Bureau).

Executive Assistant to the School Director Minister Training: Mrs N Bothma (100% TSP).

Executive Assistant to the Rector TSP: Mrs A van Schaik (100% TSP). Mrs van Schaik has held this position since January 2010 and will leave Potchefstroom at the end of December 2014 upon the retirement of her spouse, rev LH van Schaik. The Curators sincerely thank her for her five years of service and wish her all the best for the future.

Executive Assistant to the Dean: Finances and Staff: Mrs E Brazer (20% TSP).

2.3.4 Other staff at TSP

Jan Lion-Cachet Library (staff members of Ferdinand Postma Library, NWU): Librarian: Mrs HE Lombard (67% TSP).

Library Assistant (permanent NWU half-day post as of January 2014): Mrs B Bradley.

2.3.5 International academics received by the Senate

See Appendix B

## 2.3.6 Students

### 2.3.6.1 Graduates

The following students have completed their doctoral candidate studies since Synod 2012:

June 2012: Brs GJJ van der Merwe and SJB Lee.  
November 2012: Brs DFC Kruger, MJ Lourens and N Murambadoro.  
January 2013: Br RJ Pretorius.  
February 2013: Br CC Mathundela.  
November 2013: Brs DJ de Bruyn, MH le Roux and ID de V Potgieter.  
January 2014: Br AJ Dednam.

The following students are in 2014 in the final year of their doctoral candidate studies: Brs JL Coetzer, DJ Malan, DJ Maritz, FR Pretorius, JG Tredoux and EJ van Jaarsveld. Br JJ Schutte has been in his final year since 2012, but could to date not complete his studies due to health problems.

The Curators permitted the following brother to continue his full-time studies, prior to presenting himself for examination by a Regional Synod: Br E Coetzer (PhD in the New Testament).

### 2.3.6.2 Candidates 1 to 6 students

The number of doctoral candidates in 2014 is as follows:

Doctoral Candidates 1:13  
Doctoral Candidates 2:6  
Doctoral Candidates 3:16  
Doctoral Candidates 4:11  
Doctoral Candidates 5:13  
Doctoral Candidates 6:6

### 2.3.6.3 Termination of studies

2012: Brs JJH van Schaik, W Chipenyu and CP van der Merwe.  
2013: Br JC Hope.  
2014: Br MB van Biljon.

### 2.3.6.4 Disciplinary action

In 2013 disciplinary action was taken against a Candidate student at the NWU. The Management committee of the Curators endorsed the finding and resolution of the matter by the NWU. The brother received pastoral counselling and was able to repeat the relevant module in 2014.

### 2.3.6.5 Termination of studies

The Curators terminated the studies of one or two students, for different reasons, at the time of reporting.

### 2.3.7 Revision of Candidate studies

The implementation of the revised candidates course, which was already noted at General Synod 2012, has been postponed, pending final registration of some NWU qualifications which corresponds to the candidates course. The expected date of implementation is 2016.

## 2.4 *General items of the Curatory*

### 2.4.1 Exceptional award of the candidates certificate

The candidates certificate were awarded to the following brothers, since January 2012, having complied with the requirements of this certificate:

JFK Mulder – June 2012.  
TV Moruri – November 2012.  
SN Jooste – July 2013.

Applications were also received from candidates who are at present, in accordance with the stipulations of the TSP Senate and Curators, completing the academic work and sermon writing exercises required for receiving the candidates certificate.

#### 2.4.2 New Bible translation

The Curators learned in June 2014 of the Bible Society's decision to proceed with a new source-language translation of the Bible into Afrikaans, in which a number of TSP professors are involved. This decision was received with great gratitude, since the GKSA had already made a request to the Bible Society of South Africa (BSSA) for such a translation, via its Synod deputies, 10 years ago. The Curatorium declared itself willing to make these TSP professors available for this translation project, within the framework suggested by the BSSA.

The professors involved in this Bible translation are: Profs JJ Janse van Rensburg, GJC Jordaan, PP Krüger, HF van Rooy and FP Viljoen. These professors actively take part in this translation from time to time, according to a programme set by the BASA. The draft of the New Testament and Psalms was completed in February 2014.

#### 2.4.3 Curators Programme Evaluation (CPE)

One of the Curators' responsibilities is to monitor the quality, orthodoxy and adequacy of the candidates programme. Many of the aspects related to quality assurance and review are conducted in cooperation with the NWU, according to set internal and external programme evaluation procedures (i.e. the IPE and EPE processes).

The review of orthodoxy and adequacy of this programme cannot, however, be conducted according to the IPE and EPE processes. This requires the Curators to follow their own process for orthodoxy and sufficiency assurance and review, viz. the CPE. It is done in every Curatorium cycle, in terms of year levels and subject groups.

#### 2.4.4 Monitoring of in-service training centres

This Commission, appointed from the members of the Curators, continue to monitor in-service training centres. The Commission submits an annual Report to the Curators. Herein the Curatorium upholds the mandate and directives of the decisions made at National Synod 1994 related to the training of ministers (see Acta 1994:699, 5.2).

#### 2.4.5 Cooperation agreement between TSP and Andrew Jumper Post Graduate Centre, São Paulo, Brazil

Upon the initiative of the Chairman of the Curators, dr DG Breed, the TSP of the GKSA entered into an agreement with the Andrew Jumper Post Graduate Centre (AJPGC), in conjunction with the council for theological training (JET) of the Presbyterian Church of Brazil, on 31 October 2012, subsequent to negotiations and visits by both sides. AJPGC offers post-graduate training in theology under its governing body, the Mackenzie Institute.

The agreement is an academic, scientific and cultural association to the benefit of both institutions' research and teaching. The goal of the agreement is *optimal mutual support in the academic and doctrinal development of the Reformed theology, to the glory of God and in service of the Kingdom of God* (excerpt from codicil 1 of the agreement).

#### 2.5 *Finances*

Financial statements and budgets will be provided by the Admin. Bureau.

##### 2.5.1 Care of Emeriti

The Curators of the Regional Synods in which the emeriti or widow resides visit them annually and report in writing to the June or November Curators meeting, on their welfare and care. Any welfare emergency that arises is immediately addressed by the Management committee of the Curators.

**Decision: Points 2.1 to 2.5.1 noted.**

## D. SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

### 1. The Senate TSP

#### 1.1 *Transformation and equity goals*

The Faculty Theology drew up a transformation plan according to the mission statement in the institutional plan of the NWU, in order to reflect the multicultural and diverse composition of the South African society. The Senate recommended at the Curators that the demographic composition of the GKSA be taken in consideration upon the appointment/calling of professors and that persons from previously disadvantaged groups be empowered as far as possible to qualify so that they may be taken into account, without compromising quality (according to goal 6 of NWU Transformation plan: “ensuring quality”).

Since the Curators, in joining with the Senate, has full understanding for the necessity of a representative profile with appointed/called professors, the Curators undertake to give wholehearted cooperation within the framework of the Church Order in order to identify black ministers of whose capacity can be built for the purpose of the future calling and any other possible development at the Faculty in order to built out and support such capacity.

There are indications that the TSP and the Faculty may become under more pressure in various ways as far as the key aspects for the fulfilment of the core business of both institutions is concerned, under which the availability of the necessary finances and personnel requirements with regards to equity which include both race and gender. Since the relationship of the TSP and the Faculty rests on the foundation of cooperation, the Curators Executive Committee requested from the Faculty Theology that an internal and external audit be conducted jointly from both institutions to further ensure optimal cooperation with regards to all aspects of the existing relationship.

#### 1.2 *Calling of a minister in a capacity building position in Old Testament*

##### 1.2.1 Background

The Faculty Theology of the transformation plan of the NWU held that, amongst others, that the following planning was done in respect of the filling of the position of prof PP Krüger as professor in Old Testament and the positions of proff GJC Jordaan and JJ Janse van Rensburg as professors in New Testament, when they retire:

Filling the position of prof PP Krüger: A capacity building position is being created by the Faculty for 2015 wherein (in cooperation and consultation with the TSP-Curators) a black minister will be appointed. The purpose is that this minister’s capacity be built under the mentorship of prof PP Krüger so that he will at the end of 2016, when prof Krüger retires, be placed on the short list of candidates up for calling. The Faculty will then, with the goal to appoint into the capacity building position in mind, with advice from the Curators, make an agreement with the Church Council of the relevant minister, wherein one of two scenarios be set for the end of 2016: (1) that the minister appointed by the the Curators be called and offered a professorship in Old Testament, or (2) that the Curators call a different minister, with the result that the capacity building position be terminated and the black minister that was appointed in that position would have to return to the congregation after his service.

Filling of the position of prof GJC Jordaan: A similar arrangement as that of Old Testament is suggested for the filling of the professorship in New Testament when prof Jordaan retires at the end of 2016.

Filling of the position of prof JJJ van Rensburg: When prof van Rensburg retires at the end of 2016, prof FP Viljoen, who is currently a called professor in the New Testament subject-group, but 100% compensated by the NWU, will “move over” to the position of prof van Rensburg, which will be compensated on a 50:50 basis divided by the NWU and the GKSA (with assurance that this “move” will bring about no financial disadvantage for prof Viljoen). The “100% position” of prof Viljoen will however not be filled by calling, but is aimed for appointment of a female researcher by the Faculty.

### 1.2.2 Ammendment of above mentioned planning

The Dean informed the Curators that the planning as indicated above in respect of capacity building positions, can not be approved, unless the Curators already call a person that will be appointed in the capacity building position.

### 1.2.3 Observations of Curatorium

The Curatorium appointed a Commission on 19 November 2014 in order to further converse with a Commission of the Faculty Theology of the NWU with Report to the Curators.

The following findings were made:

#### 1.2.3.1 With regards to New Testament it seems that there are currently no black minister in the GKSA busy with a M- or PhD study in New Testament and can consequently not develop the necessary capacity before 2017 in order to be responsibly called as professor in New Testament.

Therefore the Dean undertakes that the positions in New Testament that will be vacant at the end of 2016 as result of retirement, will no longer be considered as equity positions.

The consideration of the possibility to reduce the three New Testament position to two, will be postponed until the completion of a audit that was requested (cf 1.1 above).

#### 1.2.3.2 With regards to Old Testament there is currently a possibility of more than one black minister in the GKSA that possesses a PhD degree in Old Testament or Semitical Languages and of which the necessary capacity can be built within 2 years so that they might probably have the necessary profile that is expected of a professor at the TSP.

The opportunity that the NWU offers with the establishment of capacity building positions from 2015, can then be utilised by the churches to help build the necessary capacity at such candidates.

### 1.2.4 Curators decision 19 November 2014

The Curators decided the following on 19 November 2014:

2.1 The process according to the procedure for calling as stipulated in the Prospectus, be put into action in order to call one of the black Reformed ministers that has possession of the necessary PhD qualification and the necessary church profile, in January 2015 for the position in Old Testament.

2.2 The to be called professor be appointed by the NWU in a capacity position within the Faculty Theology for the duration of 2015 and 2016.

The financial implications of this is that the brother to be called will have to be financially entirely cared for by the NWU, and this on the level of a senior lector, during the 2 years in which he is busy building capacity.

No contribution from the GKSA for 2015 and 2016 to the care of to be called professor will thus be expected. From 2017 the to be called professor will financially be taken care of on the same manner as the other professors.

2.3 It has been noted from the undertaking of the Dean that the positions in New Testament that will become vacant at the end of 2016 because of retirement, will not be considered by the Faculty as equity positions.

The calling is planned for January 2015, or as soon executably thereafter.

**Decision: Points 1.1 to 1.2.4 noted.**

## 2. **Administrative personnel**

The position of the assistant of the Rector and Rectorate becomes vacant with the departure of Mrs A van Schaik. The position was advertised and a number of persons were invited for interviews. Mrs S van der Westhuizen from GK Potchefstroom-Oos accepted the position and will commence work Lord willingly on 5 January 2015.

**Decision: Noted.**

### **3. Students**

#### **3.1 *Graduate students***

The following students completed the Candidate study in November 2014:  
Brs JL Coetzer, DJ Maritz, FR Pretorius, JG Tredoux and EJ van Jaarsveld.

#### **3.2 *Students that will continue further on full-time studies***

Students DJ Malan and DJ Maritz received permission from the Curators to study one year further full-time in order to complete the MTh. Student DJ Malan will complete the Candidate study Lord willingly November 2015.

#### **3.3 *Discontinuation of studies***

2014: Br M (Mollière) Daffue.

#### **3.4 *Out of the ordinary award/grant of Candidate certificate***

Dr Chris Botha applied in 2012 to be made available for calling in the GKSA under CO, art 9. The candidate certificate was awarded to dr Chris Botha in November 2014, after the Curatorium assured him thereof that the brother comply with the requirements of the Candidate certificate.

**Decision: Points 3.1 to 3.4 noted.**

### **E. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CURATORS**

The Curators after constitution named the following:

Chairperson	Dr DG Breed
Deputy-chairperson	Ds HJP de Beer
Assistant scribe	Dr D Lartz
Additional member	Rev MA Modise.