

2024 Annual SASFF Conference and 3rd AGM**5 & 6 September 2024****Emperors Palace Convention Centre, Gauteng****“Corporate Finance Governance Responses to Challenges, Threats and Inefficiencies in HEI's”**

Dear SA student Finance Forum Member, Associate Member, and Prospective Member

The SA Student Finance Forum will hold its annual conference on Thurs. and Fri. **5 & 6 September 2024**. This year's conference will focus on sound financial corporate governance under challenging circumstances at HEI. This includes, amongst others, uncertainties of the current administration of NSFAS, the economic meltdown that increases the unemployment rate, and the formation of the government of national unity that comes with even further uncertainties in the education fraternity. The issues related to fraud and corruption have infiltrated higher education institutions. How do institutions enforce the culture of ethics and accountability to staff in minimizing the scourge?

As a Forum, we hope to address these matters and look at how financial corporate governance can still be maintained. It will be held at Emperors Palace Convention Centre, next to the OR Tambo International Airport, Ekurhuleni, Gauteng.

Membership

In terms of the SASFF Constitution, Institutional Membership and Associate Membership is automatic on the registration and attendance of one or more delegates of that institution or organisation, of the annual conference and AGM. There is thus **no membership fee** payable by members.

For 2024, the Membership of SASFF constitutes as follows:

- Institutional membership:
 - Public Universities and Universities of Technology in South Africa : 25 institutions
 - Universities and HEIs from other African countries 6 institutions
 - Public TVET Colleges in South Africa 24 colleges
 - Private HEIs in South Africa 5 institutions
- Associate membership of 19 Companies / Organisations

Note: A list of members is available on request from the SASFF info@sasff.co.za

- Institutional membership is open to all public and private Universities, TVET Colleges, and other higher education institutions and organizations from inside as well as outside of South Africa.
- Associate membership is granted to companies in the Finance, Student Funding, Banking, Credit, and Debt Collection sectors – in general, all companies/organisations that provide financial services to higher education and their student communities.

Who should attend the 2024 Conference?

- The staff members from **all** universities and TVET Colleges, both public and private, involved with, or responsible for, the student accounts, student fees, and debtors' administration function as well as student financial aid administration, including third-party service providers from the Finance, Student Funding, Banking, Credit Provision, and Debt Collection sectors.

Invitation to present a paper:

- This conference is aimed at you, the student finance administrator, to come and share your institution's best practices. As you will notice in the draft program below, vacant sessions are still reserved for members to present a paper. This presents an opportunity for you to submit a proposal to present a paper, individually or jointly with another colleague. In contrast, the registration fee of the main presenter is waived.



Conference Programme

Thursday, 5 September 2024	
08:00 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:20	Conference announcements: Ms Sive Sigcau, Board Member, University of Johannesburg Conference facilitator: Dr Nonhlanhla Mabuza, Board Member, University of South Africa
09:20 – 09:40	A word of welcome by the Chairperson of the Board, Mr Ismail Soobader, University of Witwatersrand
Session 1: 09:40 – 10:10	Opening address: Ms Bennita Sisi, Deputy Principal Registrar, Ekurhuleni East College Session chair: Chairperson of the Board, Mr Ismail Soobader, University of Witwatersrand
Session 2: 10:10 – 10:50	Topic: <i>“SETA-Upcoming plans in terms of current historic debt and plans in funding that will reduce the impact of historical debt.”</i> Speaker: Mr. Spener Nhunzvi, Assistant Programme Manager, FASSET Session chair: Dr. Nonhlanhla Mabuza, Board Member, University of South Africa
10:50 – 11:10	Refreshments
Session 3: Paper 11:10 – 11:50	Topic: <i>“Student finance and sustainable reporting in higher education.”</i> Speaker: Ms. Olebogeng Mokgethi, University of South Africa Session chair: Mr. Tebogo Mokone, Board Member, Ekurhuleni East College
Session 4: Promotional 11:50-12:10	Promotional presentation by the Gold Sponsor – FNB Presenters: Sammy Khosa Regional Director of Public Sector Gauteng Kabelo Motlhala Business Solutions Head
Session 5: Presentation 12:10 – 12:45	Topic: The state of NSFAS and its impact on Student debt in Higher education Speaker: Mr. Jainendra Maharajh, FAPSA President, University of Kwazulu Natal Session chair: Mr. Tendani Nembidzane, Board Member, University of Johannesburg
Session 6: Promotional 12:45 – 13:05	Topic: <i>“Revolutionizing Academic Communication: Leveraging WhatsApp for Seamless Student Statement Delivery”</i> Presenter: Mr. Brilliant Tleane, Product Owner Finance, Adapt IT (Gold Sponsor) Ms Zamamvula Mkhize, Business Analyst, Adapt IT
13:05– 14:00	Lunch
Session 7: Presentation 14:00 – 14:40	Topic: <i>“Internal controls within the Student Finance environment What are the best practices?”</i> Speaker: Mr. Nditsheni Tshithavhane CA(SA) RA, University of Venda Session chair: Ms Sive Sigcau, Board Member, University of Johannesburg
Session 8: Presentation 14:40 – 15:10	Topic: <i>“The rising cost of education and the impact on students from previously disadvantaged backgrounds”</i> Speaker: Ms Fasiha Hassan Session chair: Mr. Taurian Layman, Board Member, Cape Peninsula University
15:10 – 15:25	Refreshments
Session 9: Promotional 15:25 – 15:35	Promotional presentation by Real Pay Presenter: Mr. Morné Swart, Corporate & Partnerships Manager
Session 10: Presentation 15:35-16:00	Topic: " Cracking the Code: How to Make Under-Resourced Students 'Findable and Fundable' in the Corporate Funding World " Speaker: Ms. Cara-Jean Petersen, CEO, The Feenix Trust, and Ms Yanga Totyi, Student Advancement Manager Session chair: Mr. Tebogo Mokone, Board Member, Ekurhuleni East College



Session 11: Presentation 16:00 – 16:30	Keynote address: Topic: “Is corruption and fraud currently increasing at higher education institutions in South Africa?” Speaker: Prof Ahmed Bawa from the University of Johannesburg and previous CEO of USAf Session chair: Ms Tshilidzi Ramulondi, Board Member, University of Venda
19:00 – 23:00	-Formal dinner & dance at Emperors Palace with DeeJay Theme: “Black Tie Theme” Dress code: National Flag colours inspired by the 30 years of Democracy – prizes to be won 😊 (Dress up in celebration of 30 years) Co-Sponsored by Adapt IT
Friday, 6 September 2024	
Breakfast and hotel check-outs 07:30 – 08:45	Delegates are allowed to check out at the hotel reception after breakfast as their normal check-out time is at 10:00.
08:45 – 09:00	Lucky draws- Mr. Ismail Soobader Chairman and Ms Sive Sigcau
Session 12 09:00 – 09:30 Presentation	Topic: “SETA-Upcoming plans in terms of current historic debt and plans in funding that will reduce the impact of historical debt.” Speaker: Ms. Septei Mthembu, Acting Senior Manager: Strategic Project Unit, Mining Qualifications Authority: MQA Session chair: Dr. Nonhlanhla Mabuza, Board Member, University of South Africa
09:30 – 09:50	Silver Exhibitors’ presentations (10mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundi- Ms. Kerusha Nurasiaha, Product & New Business ITC Business Administrators- Tshepi Lehlabi Business Developer
Session-13: 09:50 – 10:45 Break-away groups	Break-away groups: Discussion topics (Note: SASFF Members are invited to submit additional topics for this session still) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universities breakaway group The possibility of universities and colleges to accept non-monetary items as a settlement for study fees - submitted by Ms Tshilidzi Ramulondi, University of Venda Facilitators: Ms Tshilidzi Ramulondi, Board Member, and Mr.Taurian Layman, Board Member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVET Colleges break-away group – Best practices in student finance for TVET Colleges Facilitators: Mr. Tebogo Mokone, TVET Colleges representative on the Board from EEC and Mr. Tendani Nembidzane, Board Member
10:45 – 11:10	Refreshments
Session 14: 11:10 – 11:30	Break-away groups’ feedback to the plenary and open floor discussions on the feedback.
Session 15: 11:30 – 13:00 AGM	3rd Annual General Meeting of SASFF (NPC) Chair: Mr Ismail Soobader, University of Witwatersrand Important Note: Members of SASFF are hereby notified to submit points for the AGM agenda to the Secretary of the Board, Ms Sive Sigcau, at sives@uj.ac.za .
13:00 – 14:15	Lunch

Conference arrangements

Venue: Emperors Palace, 64 St. James Road, Kempton Park, Gauteng.

<https://emperorspalace.com/>

[The venue is +- 50 drive from the OR Tambo International Airport and there is a free shuttle from the airport to Emperors Palace every 30 minutes. Directions will be supplied to delegates two weeks prior to the conference]