

ECTE Office: Rudersberg, 17 May 2021/hj

To the
European Theological Seminary (ETS)
c/o Dr. Stephen Darnell, President
Dr. Tom Rosson, Vice-President
Dr. Carl Simpson, Academic Dean
Rippoldsauerstraße 50
D – Freudenstadt –Kniebis, Germany
info@ets-kniebis.de

Re: ECTE Cyclical Review visit: 29th March to April 1st 2021

Dear Stephen,
Dear Tom,
Dear Carl,

I am pleased to announce to you that the ECTE Council in its session of May 10-12, 2021 has on the basis of the report submitted by the review secretary in April 2021 after the expert's team virtual visit on 29.03 – 01.04.2021 **granted reaccreditation to the European Theological Seminary (ETS) at Freudenstadt - Kniebis for its Bachelor of Theology (Practice-oriented) programme**. The cyclical review was carried out in accordance with the new 2019 criteria and standards which include for a cyclical review an evaluation of standards relating both to the institution and the programme(s) offered. The council acknowledged the following results of the evaluation:

INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW:

The school has demonstrated **full compliance** for three institutional standards (Identity & purpose, Educational Resources, Finances & sustainability).

For the following three standards "**substantial compliance**" has been verified and **recommendations** have been formulated as follows:

1. Government and quality assurance:
 - Recommendation 1: In line with European practice, the school consider Student representation in the board.
 - Recommendation 2: The school to consider further faculty representation in the board in addition to the president.
2. Human resources:
 - Recommendation 3: Evaluate and modify accordingly faculty workload in light of the totality of their responsibilities.
 - Recommendation 4: ETS continue to increase European personnel which will help manage the absence of missionary staff and reduce the overall workload of individuals.
 - Recommendation 5: The school is encouraged to have a more formalized faculty development programme.

3. Community and context:

- Recommendation 6: In relation to the school alumni, a more formalised structure of keeping in touch with the alumni is recommended.
- Recommendation 7: ETS is encouraged to find ways of greater student involvement within local civil community.
- Recommendation 8: The school pursues mechanisms for greater involvement of local pastors and ministry leaders in ETS life and educational objectives.

PROGRAMME REVIEW:

The school has mandated the ECTE to review its **Bachelor of Theology (Practice-related)** programme in light of the *Standards and Guidelines* as described in the 2019 revised version. It has traditionally offered this programme onsite, but recently decided to make it available in parts or fully online. Both delivery modes have been considered.

A. Bachelor of Theology (practice—oriented) in residential delivery (onsite):

The five programme standards (1. holistic integration; 2. curriculum development; 3. learning, teaching and assessment; 4. student admission, progression, recognition and certification; 5. qualification nomenclature and credits) have been evaluated as being **“fully compliant”**. The school has been in the experts’ report commended for the implementation of the programme in a number of points.

B. Bachelor of Theology (practice-oriented) with online delivery:

The experts’ team has come to the conclusion that at the time of the visit: “The preparation for this mode of delivery, however, is not yet at the point where it can be included in the current review for accreditation [...] there is still a substantial element of intention rather than realisation.”

The council confirms the following **“requirements”** of the reviewers for the accreditation of the online delivery mode of the Bachelor of Theology (practice-oriented) programme:

- REQUIREMENT 1: The school be asked to produce a response to each standard and associated guidelines, as found in the *Guidelines for Distance and Online Education*. Responses should state whether standards (both institutional or programme related) have been achieved, and, if so, give evidence that this is so, or, if not yet achieved, a timeline for achieving the standard.
- REQUIREMENT 2: Prior to incorporation of the new delivery mode in the accreditation, a one-day visit by an ECTE experts’ team (VET) at a mutually acceptable time be arranged.

The council agrees that in view of the “high quality of the staff” and the “remarkable technology” available for online delivery making a rapid implementation likely, the school be given the right to backdate the accreditation of the BA programme in this delivery mode to the time of the first entry of students.

Finally, the ECTE council warmly commends the school as, generally excellent in achieving its intentions in theological education, the experts’ team having mentioned a total of twelve commendations in its report. It has also noted the warm welcome of the VET and the spirit of cooperation and transparency which has pervaded the entire virtual visit.

Should you have questions, please, feel free to contact the ECTE General Secretary, Dr. Marvin Oxenham. We look forward to serving with you in the coming years.

With best regards,

Hubert Jurgensen, DTh | Quality Assurance Coordinator

European Council for Theological Education
(formerly the European Evangelical Accrediting Association)

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