A SASCE Update

National matters of relevance to WIL (January to mid April 2013) – a brief overview:

There has been much activity nationally regarding skills development.

- A concern is that it may become more difficult to place WIL students in higher education institutions in the face of the national projects focused on placement of Further Education and Training (FET) college students. These students will need to secure industry placements as per the requirements of the SAQA registered N-courses: National N Diploma at NQF Level 6 will, for example, requires either 18 or 24 months of evaluated workplace learning.

- SAQA’s Bulletin on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) draw together a number of papers on RPL in South Africa. Most were undertaken or commissioned by SAQA in support of the Ministerial RPL Task Team which was appointed in terms of the Green Paper on the Post School Education and Training System. This may impact on WIL.

- The launch by the Minister of Higher Education and Training of “The Year of the Artisan”. This initiative will see Deputy Minister Manana travelling to all the provinces to engage young people and encourage them become artisans and associated occupations as careers of choice, thus industry may focus on taking in artisans rather than higher education WIL students.

- An increasing focus on the ‘Post School Education Training System’ (PSET) in Government documents.

- SETAs to be set up at FET colleges to assist with linkages to industry for placements. Opportunity exists for higher education providers to do likewise?

- The Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework as revised (January 2013) outlining qualifications with a WIL component.