CHE Improvement response: Bachelor of Science Honours in Astronomy (98920)

* ***The institution should revise the programme to incorporate a discrete research component of at least 30 credits***.

The programme has been misinterpreted. The discrete research component (The Honours Research Report: Astronomy HRAST81: 24 credits) should be seen in consolidation with the research methodology module (Research Methods: Astronomy HMAST80: 12 credits). These are pairwise mutually inclusive modules that comprise the coherent research component of 36 credits of conducting and reporting research under supervision. HRMAST80 is a prerequisite for the honours research project HRAST81. These two phases were designed in modus operandi for research skills development in facilitating successful student progression in research and graduateness.

* ***The submission seems to be in part in respect of Applied Mathematics. For example, it reads "Assess sub discipline specific outcomes, and the student’s ability to master advanced concepts in applied mathematics. Assess the student’s ability to perform basic mathematics research and present the research in a form appropriate to the discipline." The submission further refers to assessment in HMAPM80 and HRAPM81, neither of which are listed in the programme design details.***

The inference here is not on the subject discipline of Applied Mathematics but to the applicable nature of mathematical techniques, i.e. on how a student applies fundamental mathematical techniques. The HMAPM80 and HRAPM81 references are incorrect throughout and needs to be amended to HMAST80 and HRAST81.