



## **PROTESTANT INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (PIASS)**

*P.O. Box 619 Butare-Rwanda - Phone: (+ 250)788310811*

*Web site: [www.piass.ac.rw](http://www.piass.ac.rw) Email: [fathebu@yahoo.fr](mailto:fathebu@yahoo.fr)*

### **PROTESTANT INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (PIASS)**

#### **STUDENT WELFARE POLICY**

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**Huye, May 20, 2022**



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### **PART I GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **1. Historical background of Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences**

The institution which later on became the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences was founded in 1970 by mainline protestant churches which were operating in Rwanda. The institution was then called “Ecole de Theologie de Butare: ETB” (Butare School of Theology). In 1990, it was upgraded into Faculty of Protestant Theology of Butare (FTPB) which got official accreditation in 1993 by the convention No 1552 of 09 December 1993. In the same year, the convention No 1554/09.2/01/02 acknowledged the degrees delivered by the FTPB.

In the aftermath of 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, the founders of the institution, in the collaboration with the FTPB national and international partners deployed a lot of efforts to help FTPB resume its activities in such a way that specific needs of a recovering society could be met. In that perspective, a so-called Special Program was launched in 1995 and lasted till 2001: three successive intakes of students have been trained over two years and educated in contextual and practical theological training through those kinds of crash courses. The graduates of the Special program were awarded with Diploma in Protestant Theology. As of 1999, the FTPB returned to the ordinary four years program of Hon. Bachelor's degree in Protestant Theology.

In 2010, the FTPB grew up and was supplemented by two new Faculties: Faculty of Education (FED) and the Faculty of Development Studies (FDS) within the new framework of Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS). Those two new fields have been chosen based on the experiences and expertise acquired by Protestant Churches in Rwanda. The new Institution (PIASS) has been respectively accredited by the Ministerial Order no 09/11 of November 2009 licensing “Institut



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Protestant des Sciences Humaines de Butare (IPSHB)" and the ministerial order n°29 of 19/07/2010 recognizing the Institute under the new name of Protestant Institute of Arts and Social Sciences (PIASS).

### ***PIASS Philosophy***

PIASS holds the view that hope and science are indispensable tools for any society to survive and harness moral obligation of people to creatively improve the socio-economic environment in which they can survive and realize their potential. This can only be achieved through a well-conceptualized educational and scientific package through which everyone must rightfully experience and acquire the tools to facilitate this philosophy.

### ***PIASS Vision***

"To be a reference university, fostering knowledge development and research that is relevant for the society and inspired by Christian ethics and values."

### ***PIASS Mission***

"To provide to Rwandan Society and Churches well trained personnel who are inquisitive, solution oriented, committed and equipped with intellectual tools that enable them to meeting specific needs of societies that are moving to a global, modern and pluralistic world."

### ***PIASS Moto***

"Fides et Scientia"



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### **PIASS Objectives**

PIASS as Higher Learning Institution has the following objectives:

- To develop practical and applicable knowledge in social as well as economic development
- To impart a high quality teaching enabling creation of employment and that proves relevant to communities is close to reality, helpful for the society at large.
- To contribute to the positive transformation of society using short teaching and training, research, consultancy and projects and respect to ethical dimension.
- To contribute to local and national sustainable development by promoting scientific and technological research as well as research for integrated development.

## **2. Rational and Objectives of PIASS Student Welfare**

### **2.1. Rational of The Policy**

One of the main functions of the PIASS is to impart knowledge to students. In order to achieve this, PIASS must put in place a conducive environment for learning activities. Apart from academic activities, students engage in other activities aimed at enriching their social wellbeing in the course of learning. As social beings, students also interact with other people and students in different aspects such as sports and religious activities. It is imperative for PIASS to ensure that all these activities are carefully balanced, and that they take place in a safe, peaceful and friendly environment. Ensuring student welfare is one of the ways to achieve this. PIASS has many operational instruments that provide for student affairs and ensure their welfare. However, no single document that specifically consolidates the manner in which student welfare will be ensured. This Policy fills that gap in that it provides for students' welfare in a more elaborate and specific manner.



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### 2.2 Objectives of the Policy

The overall objective of the Policy is to make PIASS learning and social environment friendly, safe, convenient and one that nurtures responsible and disciplined students.

The specific objectives are to:

- a) Ensure that the system for overseeing student welfare is properly defined and coordinated;
- b) Ensure that students are aware of all the important aspects of their social and academic lives;
- c) Ensure that students are physically and mentally healthy;
- d) Ensure a peaceful and acceptable interaction between/among students and between students and other members of the University;
- e) Ensure a safe and clean learning and social environment for students;
- f) Ensure that students are given opportunities to participate in social activities and that such activities are undertaken in accordance with existing requirements;
- g) Ensure that students' participation in academic and social activities is finely balanced;
- h) Ensure that the years that students spend at the University are successful, fulfilling and happy. Ensure a high level of individual attention in a safe and secure environment.
- i) Foster a cohesive relationship between students
- j) Enhance student's self-esteem and commitment to PIASS.



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### **3. Orientation for New Students**

PIASS shall conduct an orientation programme for all new students before they embark on studies. The orientation programs shall feature, among others, pertinent academic and social issues related to student welfare.

### **4. Career Guidance and Employability Services**

PIASS has got a Career Guidance office. This is the office in charge of helping the students to get placed in jobs in different organizations. It also provides career guidance services to students on which appropriate courses of study to take. Students are advised to regularly visit this office to be advised accordingly.

### **5. Medical Services**

Students are encouraged to have health insurance that would help them to afford different health services. In addition PIASS provides medical first aid on campus for all students and staff. Plans are underway to construct a medical clinic that can give health services to the students, Staff and Community.

### **6 Accommodation**

PIASS has on campus accommodation for students. Accommodation arrangements are channeled through the Dean of Students. PIASS has limited student hostels on campus. Plans are underway to construct more student hostels on the campus. Regulations related to on-campus students are set by the students' services office, in collaboration with PIASS Students Union (PIASS/SU). On-campus students sign the commitment form reserved to them at the beginning of each academic year. Students who stay in hostels should respect PIASS hostels rules and regulations.



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### **7. Students' Organization and Associations**

7.1 There is in place a "PIASS Students' Union" (PIASS/SU) with the responsibility of looking after General Student welfare. The PIASSU government is led by a Guild President, Vice Guild President and different Ministers responsible for various portfolios.

7.2 PIASS helps the students to perform their activities by helping them organizing resources through their clubs and associations. Whether a student wants to start a new club, get assistance in planning an event, or find a group who shares their passion, PIASS through the office of Dean of Students is there to assist.

### **8. Catering, Stationery and Basic Shopping Services**

PIASS allows private vendors to offer catering, stationary and basic shopping services on campus based on clear conditions including safety and cleanliness standards. PIASS shall take action in case the conditions are breached and where necessary, alarming situations concerning food safety shall be reported to the relevant Government authorities for further action.

### **9. Sports and Recreation**

PIASS recognizes the importance of sports and games in shaping the academic and social lives of students. It shall therefore ensure the existence of an environment and facilities which allow students to participate in sports and recreation activities in a manner that does not interfere with academic activities and other programs.

PIASS promotes collaboration with other Higher Learning Institutions in sports and recreation matters. In this regards, PIASS students participate in Inter-Universities'



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Competitions organized each at National level and / or at Provincial level.

### **10. Religious and Worship Activities**

PIASS allows students to have a constitutional right to practice a religion of their choice and such religious freedom must be respected and promoted. Students' religious and worship activities must be undertaken in accordance with relevant University rules and laws of the country.

### **11. Water and Electricity**

PIASS shall continue to meet its obligation to pay bills to relevant authorities in order to ensure constant supply of water and electricity. Whenever there is shortage of supply, PIASS shall continue to use its internal resources to ensure uninterrupted supply of water and electricity on campus.

### **12. International students**

International students can easily access PIASS education. Such students are given a warm welcome and can easily get mixed up with the local students. International students have their own association and a representative in PIASS Students' Union (PIASS/SU). They are given guidance on Visa issues, student life at the campus, weather conditions in the country, accommodation related issues, and a full package of their necessities in general.

Approved by PIASS Council at Huye, on 25 May, 2022.

**Chairman of PIASS Council**