

## COMMUNIQUÉ TO STAFF

### UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY (14 OCTOBER 2016)

Dear Colleagues

Please allow me to provide you with an update on the current developments at the University.

Management met with the Executive members of both Students' Representative Councils (SRCs) on Wednesday, 12 October 2016 to engage on the current developments at CUT and the additional demands by students. The outcome of this meeting was that *"Management supports students' demand for free, quality education for poor and academically deserving, as well as 'missing-middle' students. Furthermore, Management agreed in principle on the decolonisation of higher education, but indicated that this is not something that can be addressed overnight, as it would be a lengthy process"*.

Please note that academic activities will resume on Monday, 17 October 2016, at both the Bloemfontein and Welkom Campuses. The South African Police Services (SAPS) will remain on the campuses, as it is a national directive. The revised academic programme has already been communicated to all stakeholders.

The following matters were also agreed upon at a special meeting of the Management Committee (Mancom) held on 12 October 2016:

- *Line Managers should apply their minds in identifying security risks, by releasing staff members in their respective departments as and when it is necessary.*
- *Stringent security and control measures should be implemented at the Bloemfontein and Welkom campuses, and staff members and students should produce University access cards to enter the CUT campuses.*
- *Critical areas, such as lecturing and tests venues, should be identified, and will be protected by Protection Services and the SAPS. Prof. DP Ngidi and the Deans should communicate this information to the Chief of Protection Services today.*
- *Effective communication with staff and students should be increased at bulk level. The Director: Human Resources will generate a bulk Short Message Service (SMS) system for staff, and each division will implement effective communication systems with staff.*

We remain positive that, through our continuous engagements with student leaders, we will reach an agreement, allowing us to complete the 2016 academic year. Once again, I would like to extend my sincere apology to all staff for the disruptions on campus, and especially to those staff members who were traumatised during these events. Line managers should report these incidents to the Chief of Security for further investigation. We will continue in our endeavours to ensure the safety of our staff and students, and to protect our property.

Thank you for your understanding and support during these challenging times!

Kind regards



**Prof. Henk de Jager**  
**Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal**