



26 September 2016

Dear students, colleagues and Alumni

UPDATE ON DUT STUDENT PROTESTS

Earlier this morning, students started protesting in Durban and in the Midlands.

Our Midlands Campus Director took the decision to suspend the academic programme in Pietermaritzburg for today, due to the concerns for the continued safety and security of our students and staff.

In Durban, student protestors started gathering at the Steve Biko campus this morning. They then made their way to the ML Sultan campus. Unfortunately, there were reports of intimidation and threats made to non-protesting students and several classes were disrupted. The library on the ML Sultan campus was closed and the protestors then took to the streets to march towards City Campus. Whilst the protests were largely non-violent, some windows were broken during the protest action at City Campus. The protestors then returned to the ML Sultan campus. As a result of the disruption caused by the protestors, we have decided to suspend the academic programme in Durban for the rest of today (Monday, 26 September).

Yesterday, we confirmed with you that our SRC and members of DUT

management will be meeting with senior officials from the Department of Higher Education and Training and from NSFAS on Wednesday. We will be discussing the concerns raised by DUT and our SRC regarding student funding. We will keep you posted with further developments.

In the meantime, please continue to monitor our website, www.dut.ac.za, the DUT Facebook page and DUT4life and DUT PinBoard emails for official DUT announcements.

Finally, we want to urge the protestors to please remain non-violent, to refrain from threatening and intimidating other students and staff and to please, resist the temptation to damage university property. We must also commend our SRC President Ms Zama Mncube for her comments to the media (News24) this afternoon that DUT protestors will not burn the campus.

Sincerely

Prof Theo Andrew

Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Operations