



19 February 2019

MANAGEMENT STATEMENT REGARDING THE CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME IN DURBAN

The Executive Committee of Senate (SENEX) met earlier this afternoon to discuss developments and assess progress made, following last night's decision to suspend the academic programme on the five DUT campuses in Durban. The report from the DUT Midlands campuses was that the academic programme had continued peacefully today.

DUT is pleased to confirm that as of this morning (Tuesday 19 February 2019), 29219 students have been registered to study. This takes us to over 97% of our enrolment target, with a portion remaining, so that students can register for the second semester in-take later this year. A quick look at the numbers will clearly illustrate that the 3500 students that the SRC in Durban claims is blocked for registration, is simply not true.

Management has invited the SRC in Durban to meet on Wednesday (20 February 2019) morning, so that discussions can continue, in the hope of finding solutions so that we can resume the academic programme. Management will use the opportunity to brief the SRC about the progress made in relation to NSFAS, student housing, registration and security matters.

Tomorrow (Wednesday) afternoon, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Thandwa Mthembu, has been invited to attend a meeting with members of the Provincial Government, other Vice-Chancellors from KZN universities, Principals of TVET Colleges, student leaders and other relevant stakeholders in higher education, in an attempt to address and to resolve the current challenges.

DUT remains open. The University has not shutdown. Staff are on campus and the administration and support services are functioning. Registration is still continuing and a team from NSFAS is still on campus, assisting students with their financial aid queries.

SENEX will reconvene tomorrow once there is feedback from the engagement with the SRC and the meeting with the Provincial Government has concluded.

DUT wishes to apologise to all staff, students, parents and guardians who have been frustrated by the current disruption to the academic programme in Durban. The University remains committed to ongoing engagements with the SRC, as we work towards restoring stability and the eventual resumption of the academic programme on the five campuses in Durban.

Finally, DUT wishes to advise all students and staff to only access official University statements via the *DUT4life* account (students) and DUT PinBoard email system (staff). We want to caution students and staff against relying solely on social media posts for their updates, as unfortunately, some of the protestors resort to manufacturing and sharing fake news via social media, in the hope to spread fear, panic and misinformation amongst the University community. Please note that official University statements will also be published on the DUT website.