

## UNIVERSITY STATEMENT

08 April 2022

**Dear Staff and Students**

Following the President's announcement on Monday, 04 April 2022 to suspend the National State of Disaster, a Special Joint EMC-Senex Meeting was held this morning, 08 April 2022, to discuss the growing need for a physical graduation for the class of 2021.

The Special Joint EMC-Senex resolved to separate three inter-related processes or events, namely:

1. **Physical Graduation Ceremonies:** DUT will move back to physical graduation ceremonies for the class of 2021; subject to a full determination of some logistics, as will be explained further below. For example, we can no longer use the Sports Hall for Durban based graduations. We might require bigger venues from externally; which we have not procured as yet.
2. **Virtual Graduation Ceremonies:** EMC-Senex realises that some logistics associated with physical graduations might cause delays in qualification awards (certificates) being officially granted to our graduands. Such an eventuality would disadvantage graduands in terms of job hunting, worse in a tight job market like South Africa's.
3. **Student Data:** Uploading of graduation and other student related data, which is due on 29 April 2022, cannot be left unattended to until physical graduations have taken place. Every university's funding grants are predicated on such data. For this reason, all graduation data, specifically, must be completed and uploaded by the said date, whether virtual or physical graduation will have happened or not.

### PHYSICAL GRADUATION CEREMONIES:

The Joint EMC-Senex has assigned the Graduation Planning Committee to draft and submit a plan for physical graduation ceremonies to take place as close as possible to the Autumn Virtual graduation period of mid-May, hopefully not later than mid-June. Once all logistical components for a physical graduation have been outlined by the Graduation Planning Committee, EMC-Senex will meet once again to discuss the plan for the physical graduation ceremonies and related logistical arrangements that the committee will recommend. The confirmed dates and conditions assigned for

the 2022 Autumn physical Graduation ceremonies will be communicated accordingly to all university stakeholders using the official DUT communication platforms and to the graduates of the class of 2021.

DUT Management urges all staff, students, alumni and the entire university community to follow COVID-19 protocols at all times. Wear your face mask at all times in public areas, no gathering of groups and maintain social distancing. Sanitise and wash your hands at all times. Practice personal hygiene at all times.

### **AUTUMN VIRTUAL GRADUATION CEREMONIES:**

As explained above, DUT will continue as planned with the 2022 Virtual graduation ceremony scheduled to take place on Friday 13 and Monday, 16 May 2022. To reiterate, the decision to proceed with the Virtual graduation ceremony was taken in order to allow students to receive their qualification awards (certificates) which some may need in order to secure employment. Logistical delays that the re-introduction of physical graduation ceremonies may involve, need not cause unnecessary delays for the actual receipt of certificates to unlock job opportunities. Thus, virtual graduation ceremonies as initially planned will take place and will then be followed by celebratory physical graduation ceremonies, whose dates will be announced in due course.

Sincerely

DUT Management