

22 February 2017

Response to a memorandum submitted to the UFS management by the Transitional Student Council and Free Education Movement on 21 February 2017

1. Background

During a meeting between the Rectorate, senior management, and student leadership on 16 February 2017 about the registration process and student funding, the following was decided:

- a. A further blanket registration extension after 17 February 2017 is not feasible, considering the need to complete academic programmes during this term, programmes that are full, and the increased academic risk to students.
- b. The problems with NSFAS are beyond the control of students and the university. After 17 February 2017, the university will follow a case by case approach. Students may continue to meet with the dedicated staff in the Financial Aid Office as soon as they receive an SMS from NSFAS that they have been provisionally funded. The Financial Aid Office will then confirm and complete the NSFAS allocation for tuition fees, books, etc.
- c. Registration of first-time entering students will be determined by the availability of place in academic programmes. Another important consideration will be the ability of the relevant department(s) to provide academic support to reduce academic risk.
- d. Returning students who owe more than R20 000 and who can provide demonstrable proof of their ability to settle outstanding debt, are granted extension until 31 March 2017 to do so. These students must also provide demonstrable proof that their tuition fees for 2017 will be paid when it is due. Individual consultation session can be arranged with Student Accounts.
- e. The Rectorate is committed to provide support for those departments that might need to provide extra classes and practicals.

2. UFS management's response to the memorandum handed to management on 21 February 2017

- a. **The student body demands that all students who meet academic requirements MUST be registered with immediate effect.**

The university management will do everything possible to engage with NSFAS about students who have been rejected. With respect to students wanting to register on the basis of commitments made by sponsors such as local municipalities and provincial governments, the affected students will be accommodated on the basis of the sponsor honouring their past commitment(s). These students are requested to contact the Financial Aid Office a.s.a.p., if they have not done so already. Additional

registrations will be subject to the available places in programmes and students meeting the specific academic requirements of the available programmes.

b. The student body demands that Management revise the academic timetable to cater for all students who have registered late.

The different faculties are committed to provide support to students who have registered late in order to enable them to catch up on lost classes within the existing timetable and their capacity to do so. Where practicable, faculties will make arrangements with affected students about the time lost.

c. The student body demands that students should be allowed to stay in emergency accommodation until registration is concluded.

Students who are in the registration pipeline and are currently accommodated temporarily will be allowed to stay in UFS emergency accommodation until 28 February 2017.

d. The University must ensure that all off-campus accommodation service providers who have a contract with the University must accommodate students awaiting funding from NSFAS or any other bursary.

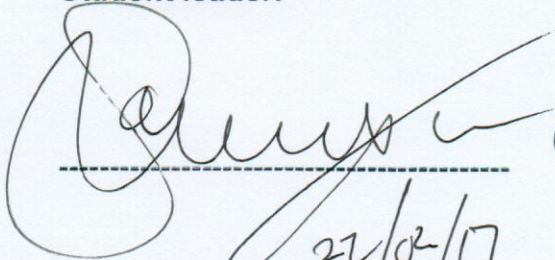
The UFS has no contracts with external accommodation suppliers in Bloemfontein and is therefore not in a position to force external supplier(s) to provide accommodation at no cost.

e. The student body demands that there be a campus shutdown until the above-mentioned are fulfilled.

The university management is doing everything possible to create access for students who meet the admission requirements. Constant and intense engagements with the student leadership about matters of concern are taking place and the university management is committed to continue to engage with student leaders about outstanding issues.

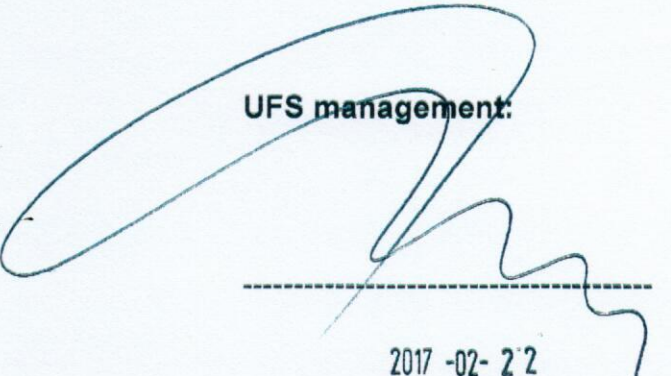
The university management recognises the right of students to protest peacefully. However, the university also has a duty to ensure that the rights of staff and students are respected. In upholding this commitment to all its stakeholders, the university management will continue with its mandate towards teaching, learning, research, and service.

Student leader:



Date: 22/02/17

UFS management:

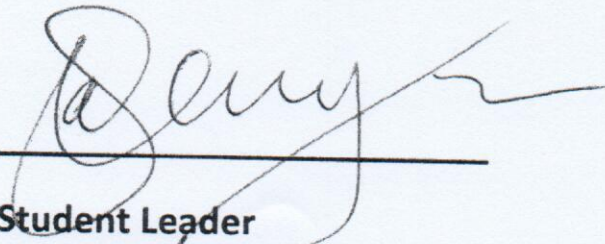


Date: 2017-02-22



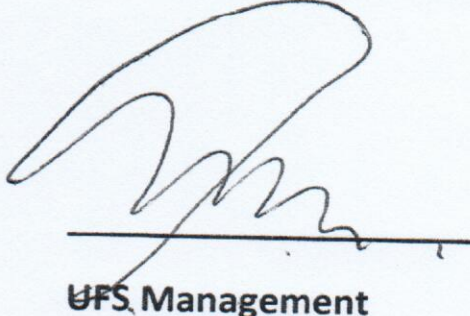
**Memorandum to be submitted to the UFS Management – 21st
February 2017 by the TSC & FEM**

1. The student body demands that all students who meet academic requirements **MUST** be registered with immediate effect.
2. The student body demands that Management revise the academic time-table to cater for all students who will have registered late.
3. The student body demands that students should be allowed to stay in emergency accommodation until registration is concluded, furthermore,⁴⁾ the University must ensure that all off-campus accommodation service providers who have a contract with the University must accommodate students awaiting funding from NSFAS or any other bursary.
5. THE STUDENT BODY DEMANDS THAT THERE BE A CAMPUS SHUTDOWN UNTIL THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ARE FULFILLED.



Student Leader

Date 21/02/2017



UFS Management

Date 21/02/2017

Students Remain Central

