

Bloemfontein 24 February 2017

## **Response to the Transitional Student Council in relation to the agreement entered with the UFS management on 22 February 2017**

### **Introduction**

On the evening of 22 February 2017, professors Nicky Morgan, Lis Lange and Prakash Naidoo, together with the Dean of Students, Pura Mgolombane, and Vhugala Nthakheni met with Sekese Rasephei and Asive Dlanjwa as members of the Transitional Student Council; and with Siyabulela Lufele as a member of the Free Education Movement met off campus to discuss students' concerns with registrations and funding for the 2017 academic year.

The following was agreed upon:

- Members of Rectorate and the Finance department staff will stop their daily operations and functions and focus on students' concerns on registration and funding.
- Two days (Thursday and Friday) would be allocated for these task team to give their full attention to solving this problem.
- Professor Lange agreed to organize, in consultation with the faculties, academic support for those students who will be registered late. This included a discussion with faculties about special dates for tests and examinations.
- It was also agreed that students will only be able to register in those programmes where there was space. Students were alerted to the fact that the UFS Bloemfontein campus was almost at full capacity and that there were no places available in many programmes.
- No student with debt above the R20, 000. 00 threshold and no funding be eligible for registration.
- Final year students with good academic records would be given preference.
- First time entering students (first year students) from schools in quintiles 1, 2 and 3 will be registered taking capacity into account.

### **Outcome of the work of the task team on Thursday**

The team met during most of February 23, 2017 and worked with the lists of students provided by the TSC, NSFAS and the Finance office. The total number of students recorded in these lists is 245. Out of this 11 student numbers were untraceable.

The work on the correct student numbers in these lists has resulted in the following information and decisions:

205 Nelson Mandela Drive/Ryalaan  
Park West/Parkwes  
Bloemfontein 9301  
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- 88 students are already registered
- 24 returning students will be able to be registered provisionally
- 16 first time entering students will be able to be registered provisionally

This means that out of the lists provided by the TSC, 128 students will be in a position to study during the 2017 academic year.

In relation to the figure of 468 students admitted but not registered, many of these students are not traceable in the system as they have not contacted the university since admission. It is usually the case that only 40% of students admitted actually register.

In relation to the above number, students must understand that the UFS is operating at full capacity and that no more students will be enrolled beyond those indicated in the lists share with the TSC.

The tables provided include the information of first time entering students schools' quintile.

Given the time it has taken to sort out the lists of students, a communication about academic support in the relevant faculties will be provided next week only.

Students must take note that in some faculties like NAS, depending on the modules required for the degree there might not be places available.

Students whose names are included in these lists will be contacted by SMS to proceed with provisional registration at the Student Academic Services offices.

Through this process of engagement with the Transitional Student Council the UFS has been able to help 55% of the students in the lists in order to register. We thank the students' representatives for their constancy and dedication.



Prof Lis Lange

Vice-Rector: Academic

On behalf of Prof Nicky Morgan  
Acting-Vice Chancellor