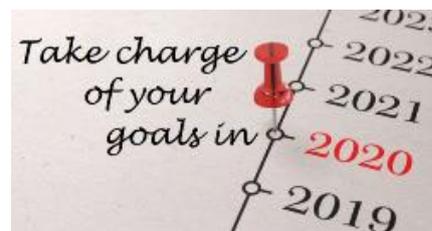

From the Dean of Engineering and the Built Environment (FEBE)

Communique 3: FEBE academic project status update 1 June 2020



Dear faculty staff

I trust that this communique finds you and your families safe and would like to use this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support, willingness and dedication to continue to work during this very challenging time for everyone. Since my last communique on 18 May 2020 there has been a number of announcements that influences our planning for the completion of the academic year 2020 (AY2020); i.e. on 23 May 2020 the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation's statement on the implementation of measures by the Post School Education Sector (PSET) in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and on Sunday 24 May the address by the President on South Africa's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Since then there has been a tremendous amount of planning going on behind the scenes to finalise the initial 33% of students that will be permitted to return to the academic project that aligns with the minister's announcements and government regulations. Please be reminded of the Newsflash sent out on 31 May about the staff return to campus and the protocols that were provided.

Teaching and Learning

Over the last 3 weeks I have been communicating regarding the required plans to be put in place to restart the academic year Term 2 as from 1 June. There has been a tremendous amount of preparatory work that has taken place at various levels for this day. While we prepare to welcome those cohorts of students that require on campus laboratory/practical work or access to specialised equipment/software, the academic staff are reminded to continue to deliver the curriculum in the remote multi-modal approach as from today and to support student learning suited to their context. This includes the provision of physical print material for students who do not have access to an appropriate device and internet connectivity and possibly flash drives with digital material for those students with an appropriate device but no connectivity.

In the past two weeks all departments and academics should also have engaged with alternative types and modes of assessments where possible, but still ensuring that learning outcomes are achieved while ensuring that the academic quality and integrity remains a priority. Where these changes have been considered by faculty management and approved by the Quality Management Department this should be communicated through updated learner guides to all students as soon as possible.

AY2020

As per the minister's announcement under the risk-adjusted lockdown level 3 a maximum of 33% of the student population will be allowed to return to campus in line with the government regulated health and safety protocols. As per the gazette regulation the following cohorts is relevant and will gradually be phased back to campus:

- i. Final year students who require access to laboratories, and technical equipment and specialised software.
- ii. Post Graduate students who require laboratory equipment and other technical equipment and specialised software to undertake their studies. (The only groups of Postgraduate student that will be allowed on campus as part of the phased approach are (a) 100% Masters and Doctoral students busy with their experimental/laboratory work and (b) Course work Masters students in their final year that require access to laboratory and other technical equipment).

The faculty and departments are finalising the subjects, student lists and staff that aligns with these regulations as we speak. Departments are also finalising the revised timetables with the new commencement and offering dates, days and times. All of these will be communicated to staff and students as they are finalised and as soon as they have been approved. This has to be considered within the campus and facility readiness and health and safety regulations and requirements.

Please check the following for updates regularly (i) your official CPUT staff email; (ii) CPUT Newsflash; (iii) CPUT website and specifically (iv) the faculty landing page.

Postgraduate studies

The faculty's research coordinator is finalising the plans for the online research methodology course which will include support for proposal writing to all our Postgraduate first year students planned to take place around mid-June. More information will be communicated shortly.

Contacts

- Faculty Research Coordinator: Prof Tunde Ojumu (OjumuT@cput.ac.za)
- Postgraduate studies: Ms Taylia Green (GreenT@cput.ac.za)
- Research and Innovation: Nonyaniso Didiza (DidizaN@cput.ac.za)



Finally, I acknowledge that this is a very challenging time for everyone and the well-being of all our staff and students is of utmost importance. To this end there is an **institutional wellness unit to support staff** during this period. Please do not hesitate to contact them should you require personal support. Thank you to all our amazing staff that are working so hard, persevering under very difficult circumstances and doing everything they can to assist our students.



I urge all staff and students to protect and safeguard themselves from the spread of the Covid-19 virus by exercising physical and social distancing; and self-isolation as required, and adhere to all the COVID-19 and government lockdown regulations, guidelines and requirements.

In conclusion

I want to emphasise again and assure you that the safety of our staff and students are our top priority. CPUT is taking every precaution to mitigate the risks associated with Covid-19 and is in the process of ensuring that all facilities, buildings, and residences are compliant with the return to campus requirements and regulations.

While we all work our way through this uncertain and unfamiliar period, please remember that you are not alone. Your wellbeing is important to us. Please stay safe and we will get through this together.

Covid-19 Emergency Hotline: 0800 029 999 | WhatsApp Support Line: 0600-123456

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