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

Communique 2: FEBE academic project status student update 15 June 2020

Dear FEBE students

I trust that this communique finds you and your families safe during this very challenging time for everyone. Since my last communique on 18 May 2020 there has been a number of ministerial and government announcements that influences our planning for the completion of the academic year 2020 (AY2020). 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.

Revised AY2020

One June 2020, was the official start of Term 2 of the revised academic year 2020 (AY2020) and the commencement of the remote and flexible multi-modal teaching and learning as approved by Senate, the highest academic structure within CPUT.

Teaching and Learning and return to campus plan

Some of the feedback received for the first two weeks was that both staff and students were excited to be engaging again and that communication is taking place using various platforms suitable for both staff and students for their specific context. Feedback shows that since students were provided with data from different service providers between 1 to 3 June the participation rates have increased. At the same time, we acknowledge that there are still some challenges that needs to be addressed and every effort is being made to ensure that all students are given a fair opportunity to complete the academic year.

Since the faculty's total final year student number is above 33%, the faculty needed to take a phased approach to permitting students back on campus and this will differ from department to department; and qualification to qualification. This is also to comply with health and safety requirements, as well as government regulations and ministerial provisions.

- (i) Priority 1A: The initial phase will focus on those final year students on a path to graduation for semesterised courses that require access to laboratories, specialised equipment and software that has to be closed out at the end of the semester 1. Each HOD has sent out a list of subjects that will be offered as part of phase 1. In the following communique from HODs the commencement dates and timetables will be included.
- (ii) Priority 1B: Subjects that require access to laboratories, but that are year courses that can be closed out later as part of semester 2 will be phased in as part of the subsequent group and the commencement dates for these will be communicated later.

Some departments have also opted to move part of the practical based work into a simulated or virtual environment where possible. For now, final year subjects that can continue off campus in the multi-modal mode will continue until such time that the priority 1A and 1B groups have been finalised. While we understand that all final year students are eager to return to campus to complete their studies we ask for some patience and understanding as we are planning the numbers on campus within the permitted compliance regulations, with the safety of all of our students while on campus being our main priority. All our plans are also dependent on campus readiness and the workplace plan as determined by the Covid-19 project team.

Postgraduate studies

As part of the 33% we have identified 100 students in their final year on a path to graduation for the Masters and Doctorate qualifications that require access to laboratories and they will receive a letter for access to campus in the following week. In the meantime, the online research methodology course started on 8 June and thus far the feedback is very positive. For more information or queries please see the contacts details in Appendix A.

Please be reminded of the following important Newsflashes that can assist students with some of their queries (as well as the attached Appendix)

- 26 May: Covid-19 assessment tool (Higher Health's healthCheck app)
- 29 May: Postgraduate workshops
- 30 May: Student contingency plan
- 3 Jun: Message to graduating students (get academic transcript and letter of completion)
- 4 Jun: Call logging process for students (including students that need to update their cell phone numbers for data connectivity)
- 5 Jun: Opening of 2021 applications
- 9 Jun: Student learning unit goes online (<https://blogs.cput.ac.za/student-learning/home/>)
- 10 Jun: Message from CPUT Management (Screening, laptops, return to campus, NSFAS)
- 12 Jun: Digital graduation
- 12 Jun: Covid-19 Residence contingency plan

In conclusion

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. I urge all 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.

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.

Prof Marshall Sheldon

Dean of Engineering and the Built Environment

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PO Box 1906 Bellville 7535 | Symphony Way, Bellville, Cape Town, South Africa

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

APPENDIX A: Student queries

Please direct any queries you have as follows:

Query	Unit	Contact person
Registration and cancellations	Faculty office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemical Engineering (Evette Festus, festuse@cput.ac.za) Clotex, DISE, CMQS (Andre Burt, burta@cput.ac.za) Civil& Surv (Zaheera Rawoot, rawootz@cput.ac.za) DEECE (Natalie Booyesen, booyesenn@cput.ac.za) DMS (Melanie Frieslich, frieslichm@cput.ac.za) Mechanical & Mechatronics (Ngqamane Madonsela, madonselan@cput.ac.za)
IT related	CTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helpdesk: ctsservicedesk@cput.ac.za Connectivity and data: ctsservicedesk@cput.ac.za Password/login: ctsservicedesk@cput.ac.za Blackboard: ctsservicedesk@cput.ac.za
Academic	Departmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemical Engineering (Siyasanga Nqwazi, Email: Nqwazis@cput.ac.za) Civil Engineering and Surveying (Ms Gaudentia Pretorius (pretoriusg@cput.ac.za) or Ms Wendy Heuvel (heuvelw@cput.ac.za). Clothing and Textile (Ms Charlene Parenzee; parenzee@cput.ac.za) ConMan & QuanSurv (Ms Charlene Daniels; Email: DANIELSCH@cput.ac.za) DEECE: Dr Zak Nkosi, nkosiz@cput.ac.za Industrial and Systems: (Shahida Ngonda; Email: NgondaS@cput.ac.za) Maritime Studies: (Theresa Williams williamsth@cput.ac.za) Mechanical and Mechtronics: National Diploma & Diploma (Mechanical): Dr Msomi (msomiv@cput.ac.za; Mr Meyers (meyersl@cput.ac.za) and Mr Senda (sendap@cput.ac.za) BTech and Advanced Diploma (Mechanical): Mr Kohlhofer (kohlhoferw@cput.ac.za) and Mr Fawkes (fawkesh@cput.ac.za) Postgraduate: Prof Oliver (oliverg@cput.ac.za) Mechatronics: Mr Ayodele (ayodeleo@cput.ac.za)
Postgraduate studies	FEBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)

Those students that have not updated their contact details and have not yet received the data should be referred to follow the process communicated in the Newsflash on 4 Jun.

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.