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

Communique 4: Faculty student update 27 July 2020

Dear students of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment

I trust that this communique finds you and your families safe during this very challenging time for everyone. Since my last communication with you I have allowed for HODs to communicate with students directly regarding the return of our first 33% of students under lockdown level 3 and we have seen many of those in the permitted and prioritised categories return to campus.

Student community: During this time, we have received emails from various students with different personal circumstances and it again just reemphasised that we continue to deal with a diverse community of students that each have to be considered. We have students that desperately want to return to campus due to their personal living and learning environments; access to devices and connectivity; we have students who do not want to return to campus, who want to remain online for various reasons mostly due to health and safety concerns related to travelling; transport, communities, families; medical; etc.; and then we have students that can no longer continue to study whether on campus or online for various reasons. As a faculty we are trying to balance the diverse needs of a non-homogenous student community the best way we can under strict government regulations and guidelines. For that reason, we cannot comply with all student demands and requests simultaneously. In the meantime, departments and staff are doing everything they can to support all students with their restricted available resources through a multi-modal delivery of the curriculum approach.

Final assessments: On 13 July we started with the final assessment period for semester 1 subjects both on-campus and online. The decisions whether the final assessment would be on-campus or online were taken considering the academic integrity of the subject and programme (i.e. learning outcomes and what needs to be assessed; the subject level; and compliance with quality guidelines and accreditations requirements); while also considering the resources required and available to do either. The feedback to date is mixed with students very positive to have had the opportunity to write their final assessments whether on-campus or online with very good attendance in many subjects. Simultaneously some students could not use the opportunity to participate in the assessment on-campus or online for various reasons. Departments are determining how they can best accommodate those students that could not participate in their respective final assessments and those that qualify for reassessments within the policies, procedures and guidelines of the institution. This will be done while maintaining the academic integrity of the programme while affording everyone a fair opportunity to complete the academic year. These will be communicated from departments or lecturers, respectively.

Return to campus under lockdown level 2: As a faculty and institution we are currently busy with the plans for the return of the second group of 33% when permitted to do so by government under lockdown level 2 focussing on and prioritising the categories as listed in the minister's risk-adjusted strategy. As with lockdown level 3 again we will be unable to accommodate everyone within those categories due to the 66% restriction. We will await the government's announcement of lockdown level 2 and will at that point inform all students that will be permitted accordingly. International students currently outside the borders of South African will only be allowed to return to South Africa under lockdown level 1 as communicated from government.

Student wellness: At this point I want to pause and acknowledge that this is all being done amidst the height of the pandemic and that we are mindful of students, staff, families, friends, colleagues that have been affected during this time. We have dealt with reported Covid-19 cases from students and staff who have been hospitalised and recovered and have sadly also as a faculty recently lost one of our staff members who was a dear colleague, lecturer and friend to many (may his soul rest in peace). I therefore plead with everyone to be more patient, considerate, flexible and caring to one another during this time as the wellbeing of everyone is important for us to move forward as a faculty community, institution and country.

Reminder to please check your student emails for:

CTS broadcast message 13 July 2020: Student applications for laptops (second round)

Newsflash 27 July 2020: Student Counselling Services: The impact of COVID on mental health

In conclusion

This week, 31 July, marks the end of term 2. I wish everyone busy with final assessments and those that will continue academic work until we resume on 17 August all the best with their studies. Please stay safe and we will get through this together.

Prof Marshall Sheldon

Dean of Engineering and the Built Environment

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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
Academic	Departmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemical Engineering (Siyasanga Nqwazi, Email: Nqwazis@cput.ac.za) Civil Engineering and Surveying (Ms Gaudentia Pretorius (pretoriug@cput.ac.za) or Ms Wendy Heuvel (heuvelw@cput.ac.za). Clothing and Textile (Ms Charlene Parenzee; parenzeec@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)
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
Residences	Student affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Dean of Students, Mr Tulani Nkuntse, NkuntseT@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 2020.

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.