



28 April 2020

Dear colleagues, students and stakeholders

Following the announcement by President Ramaphosa last week on the gradual resumption of activities in some economic sectors, my office has been inundated with enquiries about the possible resumption of academic activities at TUT.

As mentioned in yesterday's communique, the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande, will jointly brief the media with the Department of Basic Education on the way forward for the education sector later this week, possibly on Thursday. The briefing was postponed from Monday to allow for alignment with other interventions that are to be taken by the National Command Council (NCC) during this week. We will alert you once we have confirmation of the date and time of the expected media briefing.

All decisions on either a partial or a phased reopening of the higher education sector will be based on Minister Nzimande's directives. TUT will adapt and align our planning for the resumption and mode of activities accordingly and consult with key stakeholders, including staff and student representatives, before plans are communicated and implemented.

Work and engagement has been ongoing behind the scenes during the lockdown period. One of the projects is the TUT Student Online Access Survey. Following a virtual meeting with the ISRC it was agreed that the deadline for the survey would be extended to **1 May 2020** to allow more students an opportunity to participate. I am pleased to report that more than 800 students have completed the survey since yesterday, bringing the total respondents to 33 885 to date. I again urge all our students who have not yet participated to complete the survey on bit.ly/2JF4Z6u and have your voice heard.

Please keep safe and healthy until we talk again.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. van Staden'.

PROF LOURENS VAN STADEN
VICE-CHANCELLOR & PRINCIPAL