



15 April 2020

Dear TUT family,

I trust that you are safe and healthy. Despite living through difficult times, I hope you had an enjoyable long weekend and a blessed Easter.

Although we have not been physically at work, members of the higher education sector have been busy behind the scenes to ensure that we adapt to the extraordinary circumstances we are facing at present.

To this end, the Executive Deans and Campus Rectors, as well as the EMC, convened yesterday in virtual meetings to consider three scenarios for the completion of the academic year 2020 crafted by Universities South Africa (USAf).

The USAf framework put forward is clear in that no student should be left behind because of the COVID -19 pandemic. Universities are exploring online modes as a means to continue teaching and learning during this unprecedented time of lockdown.

Based on this, TUT has embarked on a survey to determine students' readiness to access content online, which will be key for all our decisions and plans. The number of responses already stood at 23 600 by end of business yesterday.

Last week, TUT embarked on the rollout of APN devices to academic staff to enable them to receive training in managing academic content online.

USAf will meet with all Vice-Chancellors on Friday, 17 April 2020, to consider the various scenarios for the resumption of activities in the sector, taking into account the inputs received from all the universities. Stakeholders, including student leaders and organised labour will be consulted about TUT's implementation plan based on the decisions taken at this meeting.

I would once again like to thank all staff members who have been working from home to ensure TUT operations can continue.

Until we talk again, please take care, stay safe and stay healthy.

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

PROF LOURENS VAN STADEN
VICE-CHANCELLOR & PRINCIPAL