

31 January 2020

SCC Mafikeng Campus

Sent by e-mail: nonjabuloqwesha@gmail.com

Dear Chairperson of the SCC Mafikeng Campus

SCC MAFIKENG MEMORANDUM OF DEMANDS, DATED 29 JANUARY 2020

The memo with demands sent to members of the UMC on 29 January 2020, that was resent on 31 January 2020 has reference.

Herewith, please find the written response to the matters raised:

<p>1. All cash paying students are to be permitted to register. Students that are on bursaries and have historical debt are to be catered for as well.</p>	<p><i>Response</i></p> <p><i>National legislation and the Policies and Rules of the NWU prescribe various conditions for registering students. It would not be possible to have a single determinant such as the above to enable registration.</i></p> <p><i>The set of NWU Rules that regulate the registration of students who receive bursaries and those with historic debt continue to be discussed extensively with all student leaders.</i></p> <p><i>Continuous engagement continues to take place with relevant SCC members:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The 2020 budget was discussed at length with delegates from the student leadership on 9 October 2019.</i> <i>Attached hereto an e-mail discussion between the Student Finance Department and an SCC member.</i> <i>As recent as last Tuesday (21 January 2020) senior staff from the Student Finances Department had a two-hour meeting on the Mafikeng Campus with the relevant SCC officers.</i>
<p>1. Implement specialised accommodation guidelines as well as transportation</p>	<p><i>Response</i></p> <p><i>In regard to specialised accommodation criteria, the NWU is obliged to comply to national regulations. The University is in the process of the implementation of the guidelines. Accreditation of private accommodation had been addressed and implemented. The next phases of the accreditation process would unfold in the near and medium future.</i></p> <p><i>It is important to mention that senior staff from the Finance and Facilities Department engaged during the week of 21 January 2020 with the relevant SRC member responsible for residences (Ms Mpho Tlhalalefo) on the matter.</i></p> <p><i>Since transportation matters are included in the accreditation rules relevant to private accommodation, it is not clear what the exact expectations are in regard to this concern. Further elucidation from the SCC on the exact issue would be needed.</i></p>

3	Provision of sanitary towel dispensers in all female residences as well as public toilets throughout campus and accredited residences.	<p><i>Response</i></p> <p><i>To be considered and, upon viability, it would be put before budget committee. It would not be possible to prescribe the installation hereof to owners of private accredited accommodation.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, sanitary towels are distributed on demand at the meal-a-day office.</i></p>
4	Students who are faced with historical debt due to institutional negligence are to be cleared.	<p><i>Response</i></p> <p><i>This is a serious allegation and can only be investigated upon receipt of an official complaint.</i></p>
5.	Dedicated staff for International Students, and those students should be allowed to negotiate their payment plans.	<p><i>Response</i></p> <p><i>A staff member for the International Office was appointed during 2019 at the Mafikeng Campus.</i></p> <p><i>Upon completion of a national benchmarking process, the payment prescripts for international students at NWU are comparable to that of other South African universities. Also the NWU Financial Rules contain clear rules in this regard.</i></p>
6.	Free access to the campus clinic.	<p><i>Response</i></p> <p><i>The matter served at the Extraordinary CoSSS meeting of 19 November 2019; and the matter would receive further attention.</i></p> <p><i>As per the Financial Rules, a minimum amount of R10.00 only is payable as an administrative fee to visit the campus clinic at the Mafikeng Campus.</i></p>
7.	Acceptance letter should be used as sufficient documentation to register a student.	<p><i>Response</i></p> <p><i>Apart from the fact that various NWU departments are involved in the registration process and that the process has various stages, a mere acceptance letter would not suffice for financial-clearance purposes</i></p>
8.	FUNZA students to have their allowances distributed directly into their personal bank accounts.	<p><i>Response</i></p> <p><i>As per a national ruling, the Department of Basic Education regulates the payments to students funded through the Funza process; and the NWU is obliged to comply to these regulations. (It is important to note that NSFAS is only the administrator of the funds.) Amongst others, all Funza students receive a capped amount per annum. In accordance with the relevant rules it would be possible for the NWU to transfer funds under specified circumstances to the personal accounts of students.</i></p> <p><i>A process towards implementation hereof would follow in the short to medium term</i></p>
9.	Postgraduate students should be permitted to register, with payment plans attached.	<p><i>Response</i></p> <p><i>The NWU Financial Rules do not distinguish between undergraduate and postgraduate students.</i></p>

<p>10. All first year students should be equipped with laptops as part of their Registration and Orientation packages which already includes t-shirts and caps.</p>	<p><i>Response</i></p> <p><i>To meet the need to unhindered access to electronic resources, the NWU has invested substantially in the provision of WiFi and computer labs. It would not be possible to make further provision from university funds to equip students with electronic devices.</i></p> <p><i>Please note that the matter was discussed extensively at numerous occasions, amongst others at the meeting held on 9 October 2019 where the NWU budget was discussed with the delegates from the student leadership.</i></p> <p><i>It is important to note that affordability and sustainability of such a project remain a concern. If NSFAS – up to now – could not have committed to such a project, it would barely be doable for the NWU.</i></p> <p><i>However, the NWU remains committed to the digitisation of our academic environment.</i></p>
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Yours sincerely



Prof Marlene Verhoef
REGISTRAR