



Office of the Vice-Chancellor

TO: STAFF AND STUDENTS

FROM: PROF O AYO-YUSUF, VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACTING)

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 04 SEPTEMBER 2019

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENTS ON CAMPUS AND INVESTIGATION PERTAINING TO THE PASSING OF HUNADI MOGONGOA

As we continue to mourn the passing of Student Hunadi Magongoa (MBChB II), it is important to brief the University community about other developments on the campus and the status of investigation pertaining to the passing of our beloved student.

1 Alternative arrangements to Student Cafeteria

As communicated previously, the Student Cafeteria will remain closed until further notice. As an alternative arrangement, Management has appointed a successful bidder to provide alternative goods and services originally provided by the Student Cafeteria until further notice. The service provider will be on campus from tomorrow (5 September 2019).

2 Natural Sciences Building (NSB)

The stench at the NSB has been a source of great concern for Management. I am pleased to report that after a long process, the sewer pump system has been fixed, and sewage is now being pumped out and will continue overnight. Management will make an assessment tomorrow morning and necessary interventions will be made if the situation so required. We are confident that the NSB will be restored to a habitable state on Friday, 6 September 2019. Accordingly, all academic activities scheduled in the NSB will remain suspended, and will commence on Friday, 6 September 2019.

3 Status of the investigation into the passing of Student Hunadi Magongoa

As reported to the University community previously, a multi-disciplinary team has commenced with its investigation early in the week. The University team has now been joined by experts from the Provincial Department of Health (Outbreak Response Team), City of Tshwane Municipality and the South African Police Service. The state has also opened an inquest docket on the matter, and an autopsy examination will be conducted

by the forensic pathologists to determine cause of death. As a result of this development, it is not possible to have the report released today as anticipated. The University community will be kept informed of the developments in this regard.

4 Planned activities to mourn the death of Student Hunadi Magongoa

After consultation with the SRC, and in recognition of her immense contribution to the SMU female soccer team, Management has decided that all academic activities will end by 13h00 for the rest of the week, commencing tomorrow. This will allow the University time and space to mourn the death of Magongoa. Management will do everything in its power to continue supporting the students and staff, including our cafeteria staff. There will be a candle light prayer this evening at the Amphitheatre.

5 Support to the female soccer team and friends of Magongoa

Arrangements have been made by Management to ensure that the female soccer team and Magongoa's friends are provided with psycho-social support during this difficult period. We call upon the soccer team members and friends of the deceased to contact Mr Themba Khumalo of Student Affairs with a view to accessing this and related services. Academic and other forms of support will be provided to the soccer team members, and the Deans of School have agreed to support the soccer team members who are affected by the passing of Hunadi Magongoa. We recognise that the class mates of the deceased may be more vulnerable than others, Management commits to supporting them as required through the class representatives.

6 Academic activities for the rest of the week

Academic activities will continue for the rest of the week until 13h00, with the exception of those that are scheduled to take place at the NSB. As indicated under paragraph 2 earlier, the ones scheduled at NSB have been suspended, and will only resume on Friday, 6 September 2019. All the assessments scheduled for the rest of the week have been postponed. However, final year students currently in the middle of assessments involving external examiners will have to complete scheduled assessments.

7 Funeral arrangements and memorial service

The University is in constant discussion with the family about the funeral and the University memorial service arrangements. Details will be communicated to the University community as soon as they become available and confirmed. In the interim, all the University flags will continue to fly at half-mast and a book of condolences will be placed at the Vice-Chancellor's foyer together with a lit Candle in memory of Hunadi Magongoa.

Finally, we call upon all stakeholders to exercise calm and utmost restraint during the mourning period. The importance of the respect for the deceased and fundamental freedoms cannot be over-emphasised. In the spirit of constructive dialogue,

Management's door remains open. Management will therefore not tolerate any lawlessness and we may be left with no other choice but to take decisive action to restore peace and stability in order to protect the people and property of the University.



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