



**TO: STUDENTS AND STAFF**

**FROM: DR JM MABELEBELE, REGISTRAR**

**DATE: 30 JULY 2020**

**SUBJECT: REVISED 2020 ACADEMIC CALENDAR FROM 29 JULY 2020**

## **1 PURPOSE OF THE MEMO**

The memo serves to inform the University community of the decisions of the Executive Committee of Senate meeting held on 29 July 2020 on matters related to the reorganization of the 2020 academic calendar. It should be noted that the calendar provides a broad framework for Schools to work within. For this reason, some Schools or even some academic programmes might finish the academic year earlier than the latest date indicated in the calendar.

## **2 SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ISSUES**

The main salient points from the revised academic calendar to be noted are the following:

- 2.1 On campus final year clinical and penultimate year clinical students will continue with the lectures from 29 July 2020, after the recent disruptions
- 2.2 On campus final year BSC students (including ECP 4 students) have continued with their academic programme from 29 July 2020
- 2.3 Remote multi-modal teaching and learning will be intensified from **10 August 2020**
- 2.4 Students who are still at home and are deemed to be vulnerable students will be brought to the campus or their off campus residences, once the DHET has approved the University's proposal in this regard. A process to quantify/verify/validate the exact number of vulnerable students has commenced in earnest, and the student leadership and the affected students will be kept informed as soon as feedback is received from the DHET in this regard. Notwithstanding the above, the University has made an undertaking that should any student be left behind during the ensuing teaching and learning, measures will be taken to ensure that those students complete the 2020 academic year.
- 2.5 Mid-year supplementary formative assessment for eligible students will be held on 26 – 30 October 2020, and the second Semester will commence on 2 November 2020.
- 2.6 Standard Examination will commence on 25 January 2021 and end on 19 February 2021, followed by supplementary/deferred examinations to be held during the week of 7 to 12 March 2021
- 2.7 The 2020 academic year will come to an end on 22 March 2021. Notwithstanding the above:
  - Final year students, depending on the pace at which they move with the implementation of the academic programme, including meeting the allotted clinical

requirements for their respective programmes may finish the academic year earlier than the last day of 22 March 2021.

2.8 Excluding five weeks of assessments (1 week of formative supplementary assessment and 4 weeks of summative assessment), the University has a total of **26 weeks of teaching and learning.**

Revised Dates for the 2020 Academic Calendar **[28 JULY 2020 – 19 March 2021]**

DATE	ACADEMIC ACTIVITY
<b>PART 1: CONTINUATION OF 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES (29 July 2020 to 30 October 2020)</b>	
<b>29 July 2020</b>	Continuation as scheduled of academic activities for all <u>final year students</u> and <u>penultimate year students</u> who returned to the campus. Continuation of final year BSC students Continuation as scheduled of academic activities for all postgraduate students who returned to the campus or to their private residences
<b>10 August 2020</b>	Multi-modal remote (inclusive of online) teaching and learning for <u>eligible</u> undergraduate students who are on <b>campus, off campus &amp; private residences</b> and <b>at home</b> Multi-modal remote (inclusive of online) teaching and learning for <u>eligible</u> postgraduate students who are on <b>campus, off campus &amp; private residences</b> and <b>at home</b>
<b>7 September 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing date for submission of all the 2021 undergraduate Applications for SMU programmes.</li> <li>• Closing date for submission of 2021 applications for all Honours and Masters programmes.</li> </ul>
<b>26 -30 October 2020</b>	Supplementary mid-year formative assessment period
<b>30 October 2020</b>	Latest Date: Release of all mid-year results.
<b>PART 2: SECOND SEMESTER (2 November 2020 to 22 December 2020)</b>	
<b>2 November 2020</b>	Lectures, clinical and practicum sessions continue
<b>23 December 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University closes: All academic and administrative activities end for 2020</li> <li>• University recess period commences</li> </ul>
<b>4 January 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University reopens</li> <li>• Academic and administrative activities continue</li> <li>• Multi-modal remote (inclusive of online) teaching and learning continues</li> </ul>
<b>18 January 2021 – 22 January 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revision period before the commencement of Standard examination for 2020 registered students</li> <li>• <b>Registration week for 2021 First Entering Students across all the five Schools</b></li> </ul>
<b>25 January 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard examinations (undergraduate and postgraduate programmes) Commence</li> </ul>
<b>19 February 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End-of-year standard examinations end</li> </ul>
<b>24 February 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latest Date: Examination Commissions (Standard Examination</li> <li>• Latest Date: Publishing of the names of candidates qualifying for supplementary and deferred examinations or graduation/oath-taking</li> </ul>
<b>28 February 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Latest Date:</b> Standard Examination results released to all students</li> </ul>
<b>1 March 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Commencement of academic activities for 2021 First Entering Students</b></li> </ul>
<b>8 March 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commencement of Supplementary/Deferred Examination</li> </ul>

<b>12 March 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supplementary/Deferred Examination End</li> </ul>
<b>15 March to 19 March 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration of all <u>eligible returning students</u> for the 2021 academic year in all the five Schools (excluding those who will be sitting for supplementary/deferred examinations)</li> </ul>
<b>19 March 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Release of supplementary/deferred 2020 examination 2020 results</li> </ul>
<b>Part 3: COMMENCEMENT OF THE 2021 ACADEMIC YEAR (SEMESTER 1)</b>	
<b>22 March 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lectures, clinical sessions, practicum sessions commence for <u>eligible returning students</u></li> <li>Registration of <u>returning students</u> who sat for supplementary examinations</li> </ul>
<b>A detailed 2021 academic calendar will be produced and circulated to the University community in September 2020, after the same has been approved by the Senate.</b>	

#### Summary of teaching and assessment time

ACTIVITY	PERIOD	NUMBER OF WEEKS
1. Continuation of 2020 1 <sup>st</sup> semester academic activities	10 August 2020 – 30 October 2020	<b>12 weeks</b> (maximum), of which one week is set aside for supplementary/deferred formative assessments.
2. Second semester academic activities period	2 November 2020 – 19 March 2021	<b>19 weeks</b> (maximum), and <u>four (4)</u> of which assigned for end of year assessments, including supplementary/deferred assessments. Accordingly, 14 weeks of the 19 weeks will be set aside for summative assessment in the second semester.
3. Total number of teaching weeks (maximum) for both 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester, inclusive of assessments		<b>(12 + 19) = 31 weeks</b>
4. Total number of weeks dedicated purely to teaching and learning, excluding assessment for the 2020 academic year.		<b>11 + 15 weeks = 26 weeks</b>

Yours Sincerely

**DR JM MABELEBELE**  
**REGISTRAR**  
 (sent out electronically and therefore unsigned)