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DVC Transformation: Prof Loretta Feris

DVC teaching and Learning: A/Prof Lis Lange

Dear Loretta, dear Lis,

In June the Curriculum Change Framework was presented to the public by the Curriculum Change Working Group. The CCWG conducted some sessions with students and staff at the SACM in 2017, and reports on these in the Framework. The management group of the SACM together with other staff would like you to take note of several points in reaction to the statements about the SACM in the Framework:

1. Even though the SACM repeatedly over a period of almost one year asked for minutes or a report of the sessions held at the SACM in order to formulate a response and a way forward in terms of curriculum change at the SACM, no documentation was supplied by CCWG. The framework presented to the public in June is the first documentation of the process that the SACM has seen.
2. The statements about the SACM on pp. 42-44 are presented as fact. However, as presentations on curriculum change at the SACM committees and to the relevant faculty committees (DAC, UEC) show, they do not accurately reflect the current curriculum at the SACM but rather give the opinion of some staff members and students.
3. In addition, the sessions by the CCWG were attended by a small number of staff and students (approx. 30% of staff, about 10% of students; it's difficult to ascertain actual figures, as no documentation from the CCWG was forthcoming). The opinions reported in the framework were contested at some of the meetings, and therefore cannot be seen to reflect the general opinions of staff and students.

Presenting the opinion of a very small number of staff and students as fact in the framework, severely compromises the value of its findings and recommendations. On the contrary, it impacts negatively on the morale of staff and on their motivation to implement curriculum change. In addition, it reflects negatively on the SACM and works against what staff are trying to achieve in respect of UCT's strategic plan and transformation.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S-d-meier".

Professor Rebekka Sandmeier, PhD  
Director: South African College of Music  
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31 July 2018