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Update on developments at UCT campuses

Classes at the University of Cape Town (UCT) started on Monday, 14 February 2022. The intention in 2022 is to return to more face-to-face teaching whilst continuing to adhere to public health requirements.

There have been intermittent protests led by the UCT Students' Representative Council (SRC) since last week.

Today, students continued to block access routes onto our campuses.

On Thursday, 17 February, the SRC reiterated its demands for the registration of all students, the lifting of fee blocks and the suspension of the academic year.

The UCT executive has again confirmed that, as of Wednesday (Day 3 of the 2022 academic year), all backlogs of student registrations across all faculties had been cleared, and that registrations in process are cumulative individual cases where students are still seeking curriculum advice or have outstanding information, as is anticipated for this time of the year. All students still awaiting decisions on outstanding fee debt have been given access to Vula (the online student learning platform) at academic departmental level.

In essence the UCT Executive has met all the SRC's demands. The UCT executive is not prepared to close the university and suspend all research and teaching, as the SRC is demanding. It is essential that students are able to continue the academic year after two very difficult years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We respect the constitutional right of all students and staff to protest, However, the manner in which the protesters are disrupting the academic project is unacceptable. The UCT Executive again appeals to the SRC to stop disrupting access to the campus and intimidating staff and students who are not part of the protest. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng has been actively engaging with students at the areas where students are gathering.

UCT's Campus Protection Services (CPS) is investigating an alleged incident during the protest activity that allegedly occurred near the South Stop for the UCT shuttle services where two individuals sustained minor injuries.

In addition and importantly, the UCT Executive has called for a special Council meeting where a proposal to reconsider the fee block policy will be tabled. We urge the SRC to give this process an opportunity. The SRC will be fully represented at the Council meeting. Until

Council has met on Monday, 21 February, there is no student that has been blocked from class or Vula services.

We continue to communicate to students and staff on the unfolding circumstances on campus. Updates can be found on the [UCT website](#).

We will certainly continue to engage the SRC and to work alongside them in the interest of our students.

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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