

22nd February 2022

Dear CSRC BFN

Re: Response to Memorandum of Demands Dated 21 February 2022

Please find below UFS Management responses to the CSRC_BFN Memorandum of Demands dated 21st February 2022:

- 1. *Releasing of updated Private Accommodation lists to all students and the university website***
HRA will regularly update the list of accredited and provisionally accredited service providers upon receipt of the signed letter from the service provider.
We do advise all students to visit our offices for us to assist them in finding suitable and affordable accommodation off-campus.
- 2. *A written agreement from the Vice-Rector of Academics which states that there will be a catch-up plan for students who have still not registered***
All material of classes not attended during this week is available on Black Board, to which the student should have access to when registered. If assignments / tests were missed the student need to contact the relevant lecturer for an arrangement to submit or to write.
- 3. *A registration threshold increase to 30k***
We agree to the increase of the threshold to R30k from R25k. Our estimation is that it will benefit approx. 300 students which amounts to additional credit risk taken of R9m.
- 4. *Distribution of meal and book allowances before all classes commence***
It will not be affordable to provide a meal allowance for a month and a book allowance due to it adding up to R174.2m. We suggest that we pay NSFAS approved students who are registered 50% of the monthly meal allowance and the remainder once we have received monies from NSFAS. The UFS cash constraints must be seen against the background of the first payments from NSFAS will be somewhere in April together with the 1st subsidy payment for the year and much reduced amounts received from students. The latter due to concessions we had to make to support enrolments as well as the fact the majority of students receiving NSFAS funding without the requirement of a first payment. We are as a result cash starved.
- 5. *Allowing students in their final year to registered for all their modules regardless of whether they are full or not. Online provisions should be made if the physical classes are full***
Students that have the opportunity to complete their qualifications have to be registered for all the modules as per the offering approach of that faculty. It cannot differ from those already registered.
- 6. *Extension of registration for international students without study permits***
We have cleared international students who have applied for a study visa on the basis of the receipt for registration, applying a concession from the Department of Home Affairs. International students were advised accordingly. We are following up on visa applications,

police clearance applications and 'letters of good cause' with the relevant government departments on behalf of students. We are assisting 11 students who could not yet apply for a study visa because their police clearance applications are delayed.

7. As the CSRC we demand that the enrolment cap is increased to accommodate students whose offers were withdrawn

The University cannot increase the caps, as this is a funding matter and lies with the DHET.

8. We further demand that the university engages with NSFAS and rectifies the funding statuses of students wrongfully affected by the N+1 rule

NSFAS has been made aware of the absence in some cases of an appeal button on students' myNSFAS accounts in a meeting with all Institutions on Wednesday 16 Feb 2022. NSFAS confirmed that students who does not meet the appeal criteria will not be provided with an appeal button on their account. DHET approved the foundation programmes for extended funding for a year. This has been confirmed by NSFAS. This is applicable to the following programmes only:

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| UFS | Faculty of Humanities | B.A. Four year curriculum | Approved |
| | | B.Soc.Sc (Human and Societal Dynamics) Four year curriculum | Approved |
| | Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences | B.Admin Four year curriculum | Approved |
| | | B.Com Four year curriculum | Approved |
| | | Bachelor of Science in Information Technology | Approved |
| | Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Science | BSc Four year curriculum | Approved |
| | | Bachelor of Agriculture | Approved |
| | | Bachelor of Science in Agriculture | Approved |
| | Faculty of Theology | Bachelor of Divinity Four year curriculum in Theology | Approved |
| | Faculty of Law | LLB Five year curriculum in Law | Approved |
| | | Bachelor of Laws | Approved |
| | Faculty of Education | Bachelor of Education in Foundation Phase Teaching | Approved |
| | | Bachelor of Education in Intermediate Phase Teaching | Approved |
| | | Bachelor of Education in Senior Phase and FET Teaching | Approved with a condition that this programme may not be offered until CHE's PTC conditions have been addressed |
| | | B.Ed (Intermediate Phase) Five year curriculum | Approved |

Yours sincerely,





Temba Hlaseho
Executive Director: Student Affairs

UFS Management

