

10 January 2019

Dear Colleagues & Students

With reference to the Financial Task Team meeting, herewith the response on the matters raised:

1. *We want all NSFAS and students with confirmed funding for 2019, that have outstanding fees to be FULLY REGISTERED and not provisionally registered. They should be allowed to register and make payment arrangements with the university. The amounts that students have been coming forward with are rather small amounts and denying people who already have funding for the 2019 academic year is wrong.*

1.1 We will clarify with DHET the information you provided that all NSFAS students with outstanding debt (NSFAS funded) will be paid for by DHET. Should they confirm that they will settle the outstanding debt, we will manage it accordingly.

1.2 If the above does not materialize, then the following will apply

- Students with total debt up to R2050 must submit payment plans and will be fully registered.
- Students with debt between R2050 and R14000 (including students staying in residences) must pay R2050 and will be registered provisionally.
- Students with debt above R14000 may approach Student Finance to determine how they can be assisted.

2. *There are a group of students that have not signed their 2018 LAF/SOP forms and we would please have all of those students registered and all their allowances given to them for the 2019 academic year.*

2.1 Students who have not yet signed their LAF/SOP forms must do so urgently.

2.2 Students who have not received links must contact NSFAS directly or must contact Financial Aid Offices for assistance.

2.3 Once confirmation is received from NSFAS on funding for 2018 and 2019, they will be assisted to register.

3. *Could the university please create a platform/mechanism for students that have not yet received a response from NSFAS to receive them and register. We request that a similar approach to that of last year be taken where the university screens the NSFAS applicants using the NSFAS standards and then assists those that qualify with the necessary provisions and allowances.*

See above.

4. *All students with outstanding fees can only be assisted through the provisional registration process. Students who have been admitted academically will be allowed to register provisionally.*

Any SA student with outstanding fees who is allowed to register academically, will be allowed to register provisionally on condition the outstanding debt is less than R14000.

The first amounts payable are as follows R7290 for residence students and R2050 for non-residence students.

5. *The UFS agreed with you as the SRC to increase the maximum outstanding in 2018 from R10 000 to R13 000. Due to the financial constraints, the UFS is subjected to no further concession can be made.*

Management considered your request to increase the provisional registration amount threshold and increased it from R13000 to R14000.

6. The Minister has agreed to continue to pay the discount for the missing middle who received the discount 2018. However, the Minister has confirmed in writing that this category of students will be liable for the 5.3% increase for 2019 as approved by DHET. The UFS will allow the missing middle students who received the discount in 2018 to use the discount as provided by the minister as part of the first payment. However, such students will be required to register provisionally by paying the amounts as indicated in par 4. If students experience difficulties, they may approach Student Finance for advice and guidance.

We thank for your positive deliberations and we will setup another meeting within the next two weeks.

Regards



Prof Prakash Naidoo
Vice-Rector: Operations