

NATIONAL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The UNISA NSRC Statement on the Renewal of the Five-Year Mandate for the Vice-Chancellor.

The UNISA NSRC unapologetically led the political charge to secure the second term of the first female Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Puleng LenkaBula. This victory represents the triumph of progressive, student-centered leadership against forces of inertia and elitism.

Our relationship with the VC is rooted in dialectical contestation—collaborating where the revolutionary interests of students align, and challenging the management where they diverge. It is the decisive interventions of this leadership collective that have prioritized the needs of the oppressed student majority.

During the global health crisis, the VC delivered online examinations, ensuring continuity of education despite the inability in the sector to provide for the most marginalized. Under her leadership, students now receive monthly data without hurdles, a victory that reflects decades of struggle by the working-class student body. Additionally, the number of graduates entering society has increased—a testament to a leadership that understands education as a tool of liberation, not commodification.

The SRC decisively opposed the anti-student work-from-home policy, which epitomized the disregard for accessibility and accountability. Through engaging with the VC, we have ensured its rescindment. Workers must return to campus to serve the students who are the heartbeat of this university. This reversal not only restores dignity to student services but also disrupts the isolationism inherent in neoliberal agenda, finding its path in the middle-management. We welcome MANCOM's new appetite to end the systemic oppression of student sports. Sports and cultural activities are essential in building a holistic revolutionary consciousness. The VC has demonstrated her commitment to addressing this historical injustice, and we demand immediate implementation.

Through collective struggle, the SRC has also played a pivotal role in fundraising to address the crisis of student debt. Under this leadership, 33,000 excluded students were registered, and for the first time in years, UNISA met its enrollment targets. These victories are not coincidences—they are the fruits of radical, collective action that prioritizes the dispossessed. The NSRC will remain vigilant and continue to challenge the university to decentralize services across all campuses. The centralization of power and resources perpetuates inequality and denies students in peripheral areas access to the same quality of services.



The VC's leadership, rooted in radical praxis, has aligned with our mission of transforming the university into a space that serves the working-class majority. We call on the university community to unite behind Professor LenkaBula as she advances progressive policies that dismantle systemic barriers and uplift the student collective.

Aluta continua!

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

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