

NATIONAL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

NSRC STATEMENT ON THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY REGISTRATION PERIOD

For immediate release 12/02/2024

The NSRC warmly welcomes all returning and first-time students to the 2024 academic year, which started on a positive note for the university with the Webometrics Ranking of the World Universities for the year 2024 placing UNISA in 7th position, thereby reaffirming the institution's focus on Reclaiming Africa's intellectual futures and Accelerating Transformation during, and in the aftermath of the pandemic'.

The year 2024 marks a significant year in our country as it marks 30 years of democracy, but it is paradoxical that after 30 years of freedom, there's still no universal access to free education. Access to education is essential for building a truly inclusive and equitable society, and it is a goal any caring government should be striving for.

Access to education is a fundamental struggle and the NSRC will ensure that during this period of registration it is accessible to all, regardless of socioeconomic status.

The National Students Representatives Council has recently engaged with the university management to address various concerns affecting students. We want to emphasise that no student will face barriers to registration and study in this academic year due to administrative challenges, whether originating from the institution or NSFAS. Our commitment is to ensure that every student can seamlessly register and embark on their academic journey without challenges which are manufactured to prevent many of our people from finding expression in the system.

EXTENSION OF REGISTRATION/APPLICATION FOR ADMINISTRATION

We have successfully managed to engage the management to reopen applications for selected undergraduate qualifications, honours degrees, and master's and doctoral qualifications, and the extension of registration is until 16 February. This extension aims to provide ample time for both our new students and those who have encountered administrative challenges to complete their registration process. In the event that challenges persist, hindering students from registering, we are prepared to take decisive action. We are committed to advocating for another extension, ensuring that all challenges are thoroughly addressed and resolved, ultimately facilitating the successful registration of every student. Our dedication remains unwavering in creating an inclusive and supportive environment for the entire student populace.



PROCESSING OF AOD APPLICATIONS

The NSRC has successfully advocated for the Acknowledgement of Debt to be made available and students who have historical debt can access it to ensure that they are registered with the institution for the current academic calendar. Students with debts of R0-R2000 will receive instant approval of their AODs; students with debts above the mentioned amounts will still be considered by the university, given that they have a history of honouring their previous debts. We will ensure that an extension will be granted of AODs so that self-paying students are able to kickstart their academic calendar.

REGISTRATION FINALISATION FOR NSFAS FUNDED STUDENTS

Last year, the National SRC tackled the recurring issue of dysfunctional communication between NSFAS and the university, which constantly delays the start of our students' academic year. In our discussions with management to address this challenge, we noticed a continual decline in the effectiveness of the funding scheme, disrupting the learning environment within our institution. It's imperative that no student's registration remains pending due to NSFAS delays. The NSRC strongly urges the institution to swiftly complete the registration process for all NSFAS-funded students supported last year. The NSRC intends to initiate arrangements for a meeting with NSFAS and the Ministry of Higher Education to tackle this issue.

PROVISION OF OFFERS TO QUALIFYING STUDENTS PLACED ON ENROLMENT MANAGEMENT

All applicants for admission must receive a response regarding their acceptance status from the university to ensure clarity. It's important to note that some students have received offers but have not yet accepted them, while others have yet to complete the MOOC exam. We urge these students to promptly complete the exam within the next 10 days. Additionally, there are students who, although accepted by the university, have opted not to register due to accepting offers elsewhere. In light of this, it is imperative that eligible students are appropriately placed to facilitate their enrolment.

Reopening of all campus facilities and academic buildings

We aim to encourage all our students to utilise campus facilities, recognising that some may face challenges conducting their academic work in their respective residences. Therefore, we emphasise the importance of maintaining open and well-maintained study halls, as they serve as conducive learning environments for students. Furthermore, it is imperative that all campuses and centres remain accessible and operational at all times, guaranteeing students access to administrative services without interruption. Therefore, we advocate for the equitable distribution of resources across regions to decentralise student support and services, preventing their concentration in a single area.



STUDENTS DISCIPLINARY CASES

The National SRC (Student Representative Council) is actively working with the university's disciplinary committee to ensure that students who have violated examination rules receive timely and fair treatment. The NSRC advocating for efficiency in processing cases while also emphasising the importance of ensuring that the committee has the necessary resources to handle the workload effectively.

Moreover, we are stressing the importance of conducting disciplinary proceedings in a fair and unbiased manner, without prejudice or favouritism. We recognise the significant impact that disciplinary actions can have on students' academic careers, and we are calling for sensitivity and respect throughout the process.

Overall, the National SRC is working to uphold the rights and interests of students while also maintaining the integrity of academic standards within the university community.

Regards

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