



Settling Student Debt to lift Registration Block

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On the 17th of March 2021, Stellenbosch University was confronted with student protest as a continuing outcry to end financial exclusion. The issue is not exclusive to Stellenbosch University but one that is rife throughout the Nation. As per our mandate to serve the students of Stellenbosch University, the SRC Chairperson met with the students who occupied the Neelsie as a part of the protest.

The group who has identified themselves as the “Minority Poor Black Unregistered Students” communicated their demands as follows:

“that the block be lifted for all unregistered students and a mass communication be issued to all students informing them that the block has been lifted and all students can register”.

In this regard, after noting the student demands and escalating them to Management, we wish to inform the students of the following developments as a result of our extensive negotiations:

- Firstly, all unregistered students will have **internet access** through the provision of data bundles. The relevant stakeholders are in possession of a list with details of all unregistered students with debt.
- Secondly, all unregistered students will have **access to all modules** available within their course / programme. This addresses the issue raised with how unregistered students will be able to access their modules. If a student has a module which does not fall within the conventional parameters of their course, they must email Ms Belinda Durelle (bvdm2@sun.ac.za), to add the module.
- Thirdly, all unregistered students will also have **access to the food support** that Centre for Student Counselling & Development (CSCD) provides. Unregistered students may send an email to supportus@sun.ac.za so that they can be assisted.
- Fourthly, the lack of study space on campus due to COVID-19 regulations has been raised by the SRC. There has been an agreement that **lecture halls will be accessible** during certain hours to ensure that students have access to facilities with power and Wi-Fi, even during load shedding.

On the pressing issue of financial exclusion, the SRC is assisting with the sourcing of funds to settle the debt of unregistered students, which is now in its advanced stages, whilst still engaging with Management to lift the block. However, the SRC is committed to the actual settling of the debt instead of just lifting the block which would be a short-term solution to a deep-rooted problem.

Moreover, the SRC is committed to its mission of fostering constructive collaboration between the various student leadership structures and working towards a safe campus environment with zero tolerance towards discrimination. The SRC therefore calls for calm amongst students while working to resolve the outstanding demands.

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