Dear Students

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE 2016 ACADEMIC YEAR: BSc in OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**

It has been two weeks since teaching was suspended due to the national student protests. I appreciate that this has been a highly stressful period for you.

You are critically important to us. I assure you that we are committed to engaging with you and working closely to resolving the specific issues you have raised, as well as working towards a more favourable studying environment.

As the Dean, I wish to share with you information for you to consider regarding completion of the academic year. It is important that you have clarity as you make further decisions.

We have consulted with all of the Faculty course coordinators on the impact that the continuing suspension of classes would have on concluding the 2016 academic programme. We have assessed in detail the minimum requirements for completing each year, as well as the processes and timelines that are needed to graduate health professionals and register them with the HPCSA.

The university has extended the academic year. In Health Sciences, each course has different timelines for completion. For final year medical students, and final year Health and Rehabilitation Sciences students, a return to classes by **Monday, 3 October**, and by **Monday, 10 October** (respectively) are the latest possible return to class dates that will allow students to complete blocks, write all examinations, be registered with the HPCSA and begin practicing as qualified audiologists, doctors, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and speech language therapists in 2017.

Please find attached the information on the proposed programmes should classes resume on the 3 October 2016.

Please note: students who have made international travel arrangements that cannot be changed, or who have study visas that will expire, must contact Mr Jason Stoffberg, who will assist with making arrangements (email: Jason.Stoffberg@uct.ac.za).

Yours sincerely

**PROFESSOR BONGANI MAYOSI**

**DEAN**

**BSc in Occupational Therapy**

1. **FIRST TO FOURTH YEAR**
* The academic calendar will be shifted by 2 weeks; lectures and tutorials will follow a similar format to the original timetable.
* The Division will meet with each class on the first day back and the details of the plan will be discussed in more detail in these meetings.
* We have a timetable plan for starting dates for both starting dates (3 and 10 October).

**First year:**

* OT lectures will shift and a new timetable will be communicated.
* No practice learning, we will engage further about this in the class meeting.
* Assessments will be adjusted and OT examinations will be adjusted and communicated at the class meeting.

**Intervention Programme:**

* The programme will accommodate the change.

**Second year:**

* All OT lectures and Anatomy, Physiology, Clinical sciences, Psychiatry; All lectures will shift by two weeks.
* For OT Year mark – CRA assignment: will be taken out of year mark.
* OT examinations will be adjusted and communicated at the class meeting.

**Third Year:**

* Practice learning will commence on 4th or 11th October until 28th October or 4th November .
* All submission hand in dates will be adjusted according to the starting date.
* Self directed learning slots will be replaced by lectures.
* Assessment for exams will be adjusted and communicated at the class meeting.

**FOURTH YEAR**

* Practice learning will resume on 4th or 11th October and will continue until 3rd November.
* Our participation in the Joint research day presentations has been cancelled.
* Lectures missed will be reallocated and submitted on the timetable.
* One week of study will be maintained.
* Assessment for exams will be adjusted and communicated at the class meeting.
1. **REGISTRATION WITH THE HPCSA FOR QUALIFYING STUDENTS**

Qualifying students will register with the HPCSA between Tuesday and Wednesday, i.e. 13-14 December 2016. This process has been shortened by one day.

1. **ARRANGEMENTS FOR GRADUATION**

The final year Faculty Examination Committee will take place on Friday, 9 December 2016. The announcement of results will take place at the results bash on the same day at 17h00.

There will be no graduation ceremonies this year and qualifying students will graduate in absentia. The oath taking ceremony and prize-giving will take place on Thursday, 15 December 2016. Details will be communicated to students in due course. Letters confirming that students have met the requirements of the degree and HPCSA registration certificates will be handed to students at this event. Final year prizes will also be awarded at this event.