Dear Students

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE 2016 ACADEMIC YEAR: BSc IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY**

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](mailto:Jason.Stoffberg@uct.ac.za)).

Yours sincerely

**PROFESSOR BONGANI MAYOSI**

**DEAN**

**BSc in Speech-Language Pathology**

1. **FIRST TO THIRD YEAR**

* The academic calendar will be shifted on by 2 weeks; lectures and tutorials will follow the same format as originally planned but will take place 2 weeks later.
* Last day of lectures would be 31 October 2016.

**First year:**

* New dates for submission of work will be set.
* New date for test will be set.
* Examinations: only MCQs / short answer online examinations during the exam period (i.e. no take home case for examination). The take home cases that would have been used for examination purposes will be used in pre-clinic workshops / discussions that are scheduled for the beginning of 2017.

**Intervention Programme:**

The programme will be pushed back by two weeks and end later in the year.

**Second year:**

* Clinics will resume in the week of 3 October and be extended by two weeks.
* Last day of lectures would be 31 October 2016.
* New dates for submission of work will be set.
* Examinations: only MCQs / short answer online examinations during the exam period (i.e. no take home case for examination). The take home cases that would have been used for examination purposes will be used in pre-clinic workshops / discussions that are scheduled for the beginning of 2017.

**Third Year:**

* Clinics will resume in the week of 3 October and be extended by two weeks.
* Last day of lectures and clinics would be 31 October 2016.
* New dates for submission of work will be set.
* Examinations: only MCQs / short answer online examinations during the exam period (i.e. no take home case for examination). The take home cases that would have been used for examination purposes will be used in pre-clinic workshops / discussions that are scheduled for the beginning of 2017.
* Oral (clinical) examinations: will be cancelled and the final mark will be made up of clinical rotations and Disability in Context only. “Mock” oral examinations will then be scheduled in 2017 at the end of the first clinical block to assist students to prepare for the mid-year examinations – so that they will have had experience in oral examinations.

**FOURTH YEAR**

* Fourth year clinics will continue until Friday 4 November 2016; generally students will be able to continue at the original sites as planned – one or two changes may need to be made as not all sites and supervisors are available for the extended period. Once we have confirmation that we are resuming activities we will make arrangements with the sites and supervisors and communicate these to the specific students at those sites.
* Seminars: written document will need to be finalized; a new date will be set for this. The division has agreed to cancel the seminar presentations so the mark allocated for this course will be based on the document only. This will free students on Mondays to focus on completing their clinical hours.
* Mondays (previously scheduled for seminars) can also be used for clinical placements – to be negotiated with sites.
* FQEs for fourth years were scheduled on 08 November (Audio) and 09 November (Speech). If we push these back by two weeks (22 and 23 November), it will not allow enough time for re-examinations two weeks later in view of the date for final submission of marks. We would therefore suggest that we schedule the FQEs in the week of 14 – 18 November, depending on external examiner availability. We also need to factor in a day for re-examinations from June.
* Clinical hours: the division will inform the HPCSA that we will only be able to submit the fourth years’ clinical hours in the first week in December. We have not yet received a submission date for these, but it is usually mid-November.

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.