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Dear Faculty of Education Student

COVID-19 LOCKDOWN – IMPORTANT INFORMATION (updated 13 April 2020)

I hope this message finds you all well and in good health.

The lockdown extension announced by the President has affected everyone's lives in South Africa. The unpredictability of the future and the uncertainty of what is to happen next has affected our plans for 2020.

The Faculty of Education has put contingency plans in place in an attempt to mitigate the effect of the lockdown on the academic year. Our plans are based on different scenarios, the first of which was premised on the ending of the lockdown at midnight on the **16 April 2020**. Many of you heard about the plans for this scenario, however, this is no longer a viable proposition. I received a number of mails where you have raised some concerns. Amongst others, these include:

- Submission of assignments - especially for the ODL programmes where the distance learning centres are closed and due dates are looming
- Access to the campus, to collect materials and equipment needed to complete assignments
- Access to the internet for online teaching
- Missing out on communication due to not being able to access Efundu
- The proposed cancellation of examinations
- The additional assignments and how these will be scheduled in order not to cause additional work pressure
- The possible extension of the semester

I want to assure you that the Faculty has proposed contingency plans for the concerns raised, as well as other matters that we are aware of. The Deputy Dean responsible for teaching and learning, together with the School Directors, have initiated a Teaching and Learning Plan (TLP) as well as an assessment plan (FAP) which address the different scenarios. The Faculty submitted these plans to the Senate Executive Committee (SENEX) for approval. The SENEX meeting is scheduled for Wednesday **15 April 2020**.

I believe that the President took every eventuality into account when he made the decision to extend the lockdown. I believe that, just as he did, many will make sacrifices to ensure that we overcome this pandemic. We are also called to contribute to the post-pandemic South Africa. The best you can do is to work hard under trying conditions, in order to qualify as a teacher, thus enabling you to assist in the recovery process.

The next few months are going to be difficult and some of us will use it as an excuse for mediocrity. However, I call on you to stand up and be counted by working tirelessly and fulfilling your calling as a (prospective) teacher.

We appeal to you to please be patient as we implement all the afore-mentioned plans. We appreciate your positive attitude, support and co-operation during the challenging times we are living in.

Please be on the lookout for updates!

Kind regards

Prof Lloyd N Conley

Executive Dean: Faculty of Education

NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY