

17 July 2020

**COMMUNIQUE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR: TEACHING AND
LEARNING**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION

Dear Staff and Students

Every day we are reminded about the trauma brought to us by the Covid-19 pandemic. Everyone says the situation is beyond our control. We agree. It is this ability to find reasons to recognise that it has taken us to the point where we are as UKZN. We have been able to test online teaching under challenging circumstances. We agreed that it is hard to succeed, but we also decided that we can achieve this by working together. We reached out to the vast majority of our students from the beginning because we started by asking the right questions about who we serve – our students. We came up with strategies to provide essential support for students and our academics through access to computers and training, respectively. We developed a potential charter – the online teaching framework. As we did this, we were testing the plan and learning how to interpret it. Now, we are telling stories of success by our staff and their students.

Online teaching continues; it is not finished yet. We continue to learn more about it – its pros and cons. It is for all these reasons that on behalf of the Task teams working on the online teaching strategy, at the central and College levels, I must express my gratitude to all staff and our students.

We are at the peak of our commitment to having a successful first semester of 2020. We committed through our actions, and the sessional dates provide the framework for us to define our path. The focus on summative assessments must continue so that we reach our destination to finalise this semester in the middle of September. We will use the experience of this semester to do better in the second semester and into the future.

Keep up the excellent work. The University leadership is fully aware of your hard work and commitment, which is the reason the University can claim some success in this project.

Issued by

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