

30 May 2020

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

1 JUNE 2020 LAUNCH OF REMOTE LEARNING

Dear Staff and Students

This is a follow-up communication after the informative implementation of the Dry-Run for the Remote Multimodal Teaching and Learning Plan. The aim of the Communique is to provide some guidelines in preparation for the launch of the Plan this coming Monday, 1 June 2020. There appears to be excitement mixed with anticipation across our academy on this new venture from students and academic staff alike. The EMC Teaching and Learning Task Team shares these sentiments, and remains resolutely behind the hard-working academics and dedicated students. We all want to make this venture work.

A formal report on the dry-run is being prepared for general consideration by the University community. This report will be shared at formal structures and at the informal communities of practice. Colleagues are encouraged to make available and contribute all and any information regarding their experience of and during the dry-run. This information should be channelled through to the College Deans of Teaching and Learning via the appropriate Academic Leaders. Equally important is for members of the Student Representative Council to make available and contribute all and any information regarding their experience of the dry-run and channel this information to the EMC Teaching and Learning Task Team via the President and the Secretary General. This report will inform in a fundamental way the first few weeks of implementation.

The Task Team has developed a set of principles and guidelines for academics and for students on the implementation of the Plan. I am pleased to inform everyone that the Plan was presented at Senate and approved, together with the guidelines. This now takes our community to the next phase; one of even more intense activity, characterised by teaching and learning delivery and practice, as well as regular community discussions. The Task Team will continue to coordinate this project with intermittent discussions at the various learning and teaching communities of practice that have been set up for the plan. At an Institutional level, the online platforms, [UTOP](#) and [ULOP](#), are up and running for this purpose, and the virtual platform provided by the Executive Leadership Forum on Zoom is the next platform for discussion. The Task Team strongly encourages Colleges and Schools to set up and use communities of practice for local discussion and sharing of best practice experiences on the plan. Please do not use the formal structures, such as School Boards and committees, as communities of practice, as this will defeat the purpose of best practice communities. Rather, use communities of practice formed by Colleges and Schools as vehicles to share information about the issues related to online teaching.

This Communique also serves to distribute the evolving Remote Multimodal Teaching and Learning Plan, the guiding principles, for easy access by all members of our

academic community. Revised sessional dates will be published shortly. We have taken the critical first few steps in our journey. It is important to note that we will advise the university on any back up plans after being informed by the results of analysis of the Dry-Run.

Issued by

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