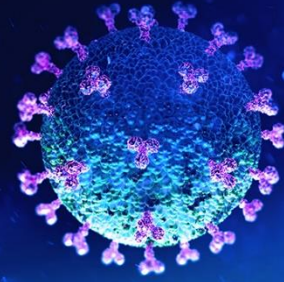




UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA - UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

Find out more about UCT's approach
to COVID-19 on the UCT website



15 May 2020

Vice-Chancellor hosts special online staff assembly on UCT's COVID-19 response

Over 3000 University of Cape Town staff members were part of an online staff assembly hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, on 14 May 2020.

Professor Phakeng and other members of the UCT executive provided updates on the university's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The executive members included the three Deputy Vice-Chancellors – Associate Professor Lis Lange: Teaching and Learning, Professor Loretta Feris: Transformation and Student Affairs and Professor Sue Harrison: Research and Internationalisation – as well as the COO Dr Reno Morar and the Registrar Royston Pillay.

Staff members engaged with the discussions, asking pertinent human resource-related questions, raising queries about support for staff during this unusual period, and enquiring about the financial implications of the coronavirus lockdown.

"I trust that the executive and I managed to allay any fears and respond adequately to any concerns that staff members may have had. As I mentioned in my presentation, while finances are a challenge in all sectors and industries, both in our country and globally, the executive has committed to keep paying the salaries of current staff in 2020 whether they work remotely or on campus," said Professor Phakeng in communication to staff after the meeting.

VIEW: [Address delivered by Professor Phakeng at the online staff assembly.](#)

READ: [Full message issued by Professor Phakeng to staff after the staff assembly.](#)

The coronavirus pandemic has provided an opportunity for UCT as an institution to work differently, she remarked.

“Beyond COVID-19, and that time will come, we need to ask ourselves what role remote working will play in our lives. We continue working hard on planning a phased return to campus, and those required to return to campus will, of course, have to adhere to strict social distancing and related regulations.”

Professor Phakeng encouraged staff members who are able, to contribute to the COVID-19 UCT Emergency Fund, no matter how small the amount. Contributions to this fund can be made by staff, students, alumni or any other external funder. Professor Phakeng has committed to donate 20% of her salary for three months (in addition to the 10% she gives monthly towards student funding).

VIEW: [Full video recording of the online staff assembly, including the updates shared by members of the UCT executive and the Q&A session.](#)

ENDS

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