



17 August 2022

Ms Thuto Mashila
President
Student Representative Council
University of Pretoria

Dear President

INITIAL FEE INCREASE FOR 2023

Our numerous discussions on the above subject bear reference.

Kindly note that the Executive management thoroughly discussed all the issues raised by the Student Representative Council in our August 4, 2022 meeting which was a follow-up from engagements that happened in October 2021 and after with the SRC.

Having considered all the issues raised regarding the financial difficulties faced by our students, parents and other sponsors, the Executive further noted the following facts:

- NSFAS recipients are not affected by the subject matter because their fees are guaranteed;
- The initial/minimum fee payment has not been increased for seven years at UP;
- A benchmarking exercise with other research-intensive universities confirmed that UP's initial fee payment is much lower than others;
- The University has financial assistance mechanisms for the 'missing-middle' category of students, including workable payment plans, bursaries and UPAssist loans;
- The university notes that the SRC agrees that there should be an increase, albeit it at a lower quantum of 10%;
- The University would also consider the funding method used for Honours students through which a ring-fenced fund is set up in order to top up the difference between the previous amount and the new amount of the initial fee. Such funding would carry conditions and would only be available to students who qualify for it;
- Some students are already paying the minimum 2023 fees;
- The University will continue its efforts to seek funding for our international students;
- Students are encouraged to start planning the payments for their 2023 initial fee, so that it is not a major burden at the beginning of the year; and

- The University's bad debts are increasing at a pace that poses a risk to the financial sustainability of the University.

In the light of the above facts and range of mechanisms that seek to mitigate against negative effects, the Executive decided to uphold the decision to increase the initial fee payments for all students, including international students, to ensure sustainability of the University for quality world class education.

We thank you in advance for your understanding.

Kind regards.



Prof N Themba Mosia
Vice-Principal: Student Life