

15 MARCH 2020

MANAGEMENT RESOLUTIONS ON COVID-19

Following candid recommendations from the UNAM COVID-19 Taskforce, the University Management met earlier today, and took several resolutions that will have a severe impact on the operations of the university and our stakeholders. However, these decisions were not taken lightly. They were made with the full awareness of the nature of the risk we face, balanced against the responsibility of the University towards students and the country. The resolutions are not final, and may change at any time. They will also not supersede any directives that may subsequently be taken by the Namibian Government.

The resolutions are as follows:

1. **A broad based digitisation process** has begun, and all staff that can work remotely will be informed so as to minimize staff at the university's campuses.
2. **Distance Students** - Vacation school has been modified. This means that no face to face classes will take place. Students and staff should not visit any Campus or Centre for this purpose. Arrangements are being made for lecturers to avail content to students through online platforms. A detailed communication regarding the modalities of engagement will be shared on the online learning platforms to all distance students.
3. **Full-Time Students** - UNAM is on recess, this means no classes were scheduled to take place this week **16 - 20 March**. Management resolved that this remains the status quo, while awaiting for further guidance from the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation. A communication about the continuation of classes will be made before recess is over.
4. **Graduation Ceremonies** have been modified. Students will graduate in absentia. There will be no graduation ceremony held in April. Arrangements about how students will receive their qualifications will be communicated in due time by the Office of the Registrar. This applies to both local and international graduants.
5. **Students from the Faculty of Health Sciences** are temporarily withdrawn from health facilities. This is to allow for students to receive adequate training/induction on infectious disease protocols and be equipped to provide assistance as the need may arise. The Faculty of Health Sciences will be in communication with students regarding further details.
6. **General academic excursions**, including that of education students and their attachments at schools across the country are temporarily disallowed until further notice. It is the responsibility of the various deans and directors to ensure that these arrangements do not affect students' academics negatively by putting in place alternative measures. Students are encouraged to keep an eye on their portals and the university's various communication channels for updates.
7. **On the 16th and 17th of March** management will put modalities in place on how the institution will continue to execute its mandate safely in the midst of this pandemic.
8. **The Estates Department** commits all available resources to maintain a high standard of hygiene on all campuses

Despite these grim circumstances, the University Management remains committed to educating the nation, while taking the necessary precautions to keep the UNAM community, and the country safe.

Best,

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