



*The Office Of The Principal and Vice - Chancellor*

13 January 2016

Dear colleagues

A very warm and collegial “welcome home”! I trust that you were able to enjoy some well-earned rest and relaxation with your loved ones and that you have returned to your offices with your energies replenished and your enthusiasm for the New Year and all that it holds, boundless. We give thanks for your safe return.

2016 is going to be a milestone year for our university. On the one hand we will be commencing in earnest with the implementation of our 2016 -2020 strategy. Each of you will have an integral role to play in this process and I expect the full commitment and co-operation of each and every staff member in ensuring that we achieve our set objectives. To a very significant extent, our sustainability as a university – both short and long-term – depends on our collective commitment to our vision, as well as an impeccable work ethic that has *zero tolerance* for sloth and indifference.

On the other hand, we are already experiencing the disruptive reality of a society and sector in transition. As committed staff, loyal to our institution and students I find it untenable and deeply disappointing that some staff has already resorted to undermining the university and its core business – our students - by making impossible for their colleagues to do their jobs or our students to register. Preventing access to our campuses, damaging Unisa property and undermining the functioning of the university are serious breaches of professional ethics and conduct. My request to those resorting to such conduct is that they should return to their desks and allow their colleagues and our students to get on with the business of the university.

We are called to serve our students and our colleagues with respect and dignity notwithstanding our personal sentiments. While I am aware that many colleagues are already doing this, the current disruptions mitigate against the very service that we are striving to deliver. It is imperative that the university resumes its business immediately. Management will endeavor to the best of its ability, to keep all staff abreast of institutional happenings, via sms and Intcom. Where there is any uncertainty, staff should kindly contact their line managers for guidance.

Colleagues, let us focus relentlessly on the responsibility that we have as a university and as citizens of our country, to ensure that we produce accomplished students for a brighter future. Let 2016 be the year that puts Unisa on the map as an institution that genuinely cares and serves. I wish you all a fulfilling and productive 2016!