

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTIONAL RULE REGARDING
VACCINATION AGAINST NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

Reference number of this document	
Hemis classification	
Purpose	The purposes of this rule are to assist in the vaccination of SU community against COVID-19 and to provide a safe campus and working environment for all its students, staff members and other persons.
Type of document	Institutional rule
Accessibility	Internal and external
Date of implementation	Date of publication by the Registrar
Date of full implementation	1 April 2022 or such later date as the Council may determine
Revision date / frequency	As and when required
Previous revisions	New Rule
Owner of this rule	Chief Operating Officer
Institutional functionary (curator) responsible for these rule	Chief Director: Facilities Management
Date of approval	□ 2022
Approved by	Council
Keywords	COVID-19; vaccination; institutional rule

In case of differences in interpretation between the English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa versions of this document the English version will be regarded as the operative version and the Afrikaans and isiXhosa versions as translations.

The reasons for this institutional rule

Stellenbosch University ('SU') is home to an academic community of over 30 000 students (including 4 000 foreign students from 100 countries) and 3 500 permanent staff members (including 1 000 academics) on five campuses.

As a residential university, its core objectives include providing in-person teaching and learning on its campuses and facilitating the conduct of research on its campuses.

Since March 2020 the novel coronavirus disease ('COVID-19') pandemic has significantly disrupted teaching and learning and research at SU, as well as other aspects of campus life, especially in the SU student residences and other accommodation and the optimal utilisation of its other facilities.

Initially, SU resorted to emergency remote teaching and learning, in which all teaching and learning was online, most students and staff were sent home and most university facilities stopped operating. Since mid-2020 SU has been using augmented remote teaching and learning and assessment ('ARTLA'), in which lectures, tutorials and assessments are conducted through a mix of virtual (online) media and in-person events, most staff and students do much of their work away from campus, the SU residences are partially occupied and many of its other facilities are partially utilised.

ARTLA, though indispensable to maintaining continuity of teaching and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, is a poor substitute for in-person teaching and learning where lecturers, tutors and students can interact spontaneously, the integrity of assessments can be better assured, the SU residences are fully occupied, and its other facilities are optimally utilised.

Consequently, SU needs to take steps that will allow the return to normal or near-normal campus teaching and learning and other services and activities.

SU is legally obliged to take reasonable steps to provide a safe campus and working environment for all its students, staff and other persons.

COVID-19 is a highly infectious disease which, in some of its victims, particularly older people or persons with co-morbidities, causes serious illness and even death. Many people with COVID-19 who are infectious to others do not realise they are infected until later, or in some cases at all. Since COVID-19 is mainly transmitted from person to person when in close proximity to an infected person, mitigating steps are required to lower the probability of infection. These include the proper use of face masks, proper ventilation and vaccination.

The COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa, as elsewhere, has manifested as 'waves' of infection with high infection rates and large numbers of people becoming infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, followed by 'inter wave' periods with low infection rates and small numbers of people becoming infected. The available medical evidence suggests that this infection pattern will continue until a very high proportion of our population is immune against COVID-19 due to prior infection and/or vaccination.

Since early 2021 the South African government has made vaccinations against COVID-19 progressively available in the country. Currently, all persons aged 12 and over are eligible to be vaccinated free of charge at any of the large number of COVID-19 authorised vaccination sites. These include a SU permanent site and other temporary sites on campus. SU is also

conducting a COVID-19 vaccination promotion and education programme. Booster vaccines have been made available to health care workers and other high-risk individuals, and will probably be made available to the general public in a phased manner.

The COVID-19 vaccinations authorised by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority are safe for use by almost all persons aged 12 years and older; are effective at reducing the recipient's risk of contracting the virus that causes COVID-19; and are highly effective at preventing their hospitalisation and death due to COVID-19. In addition, there is an increasingly cogent body of medical evidence that fully vaccinated people with breakthrough infections are infectious for a shorter period and shed less particles of the virus than unvaccinated people. According to this evidence, vaccinated people are therefore less likely to transmit the disease to both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

After conducting a risk assessment as prescribed by the Consolidated Directions on Occupational Health and Safety in Certain Workplaces (Government Notice No. R.499 in *Government Gazette* No. 44700 of 11 June 2021), SU management decided that a high rate of vaccination is required to return safely to full in-person teaching and learning or, at least, to reduce the virtual components of ARTLA significantly and increase the in-person components of teaching and learning correspondingly. Any increase in in-person teaching and learning will remain subject to the incidence and rate of COVID-19 infection in the broader community at any given time, and the consequent national Government alert level, regulations and directions.

SU consequently intends making a binding institutional rule which will take full effect from the start of the second quarter in 2022 or such later date as the Council may determine, and will remain in operation until the COVID-19 pandemic has passed or diminished to a level where the rule can safely be rescinded. From that date onwards and until the rule is rescinded, continuation of study at SU will be dependent upon the student satisfying SU that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19; staff will be required to satisfy SU that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before they will be permitted to fulfil their employment obligations to SU on its premises, unless they can be reasonably accommodated elsewhere or in some other way which will not cause SU unjustifiable expense or other hardship; and all other persons will be required to satisfy SU that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before they may access the SU campus or other buildings controlled by SU.

SU acknowledges that, for a few persons, COVID-19 vaccinations are medically contraindicated; and, for others, taking the vaccination may be contrary to a sincere religious or non-religious belief which is not based on false information about the safety or efficacy of all the COVID-19 vaccines approved by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority. The institutional rule will consequently make provision for the granting of medical and constitutional exemptions to such persons.

SU further acknowledges that, for a few SU students, most of whom will be involved in research, their presence on SU premises is not required for purposes of their study. The institutional rule will consequently also make provision for the granting of academic exemptions to such persons, but on condition that they not access any SU premises during their period of study unless they are fully vaccinated.

There are some parts of the SU campus or premises controlled by SU where, due to exceptional circumstances pertaining to those places (e.g. a public post office or Independent

Electoral Commission voting station in a SU building) and/or all or some of the persons who access them (e.g. participants in a clinical trial being conducted from a SU building), an exemption should be granted either generally or in relation to specific persons or classes of persons accessing those places. The institutional rule will make provision for such operational exemptions.

Children under the age of 12 years, or such other age as the South African National Department of Health may designate as the minimum age at which vaccination against COVID-19 will be available in South Africa, will be automatically exempt from the institutional rule.

SU has accepted legal advice that the institutional rule is lawful and constitutional.

The COVID-19 vaccination institutional rule

1. From the **full implementation date** and until this rule is rescinded, no **SU student** will continue to be registered as such, no person will be registered as a new **SU student** or re-registered as a **SU student**, no **SU staff-member** or **SU office-bearer** may access the **SU Campus** or other premises controlled by **SU**, no person may be employed as a new **SU staff-member** and no other person may access the **SU Campus** or other premises controlled by **SU**, unless:
 - 1.1. they first satisfy **SU** that they are **fully vaccinated** against **COVID-19** and receive certification of the full vaccination from **SU** in the manner described in 2 below;
 - 1.2. they are a **SU student**, **SU staff-member** or **SU office-bearer** and are exempted by **SU** from 1.1 above and receive certification of their exemption from **SU** in the manner described in 3 below;
 - 1.3. in the case of access to the **SU Campus** or other premises controlled by **SU**, the part of the **SU campus** or the premises controlled by the **SU** in question, due to exceptional circumstances pertaining to that place and/or all or some of the persons who access it, has been exempted by **SU** from 1.1 above in the manner described in 4 below either generally or in relation to specific persons or classes of persons, and they are such a person; or
 - 1.4. they are **automatically exempted** from 1.1 above.
2. To comply with 1.1 above:
 - 2.1. every **SU student**, **SU staff-member** or **SU office-bearer** must submit to **SU** proof that they are **fully vaccinated** against **COVID-19** by uploading their **official virtual vaccination certificate** or a certified copy of their **official physical vaccination certificate**, using the **designated SU platform**; and
 - 2.2. any other person wishing to access the **SU campus** or any other premises controlled by **SU** must on request present their **official virtual vaccination certificate** or their original **official physical vaccination certificate** or a certified copy of their **official physical vaccination certificate** to a **SU**

staff-member or contractor responsible for controlling access to the **SU campus** or those premises, and

in response, and following verification of the vaccination certificate at the discretion of **SU**, receive from **SU**, **virtual certification** or certification in writing of its acceptance that they are **fully vaccinated** against **COVID-19**.

3. To comply with 1.2 above, a **SU student**, **SU staff-member** or **SU office-bearer** seeking exemption from 1.1 above must:
 - 3.1. apply for exemption using the **designated SU platform**;
 - 3.2. in their application, specify the **exemption ground** on which they rely, and motivate the granting of the exemption on the relevant template and include, by uploading on the **designated SU platform**, any supporting documents not exceeding 20 pages on which they rely;
 - 3.3. if requested by the **exemption panel**, provide further documents, submit the results of specified medical testing and participate in an online interview regarding their application with the panel, one of its members or a **SU staff-member** designated by the panel for that purpose; and
 - 3.4. receive from **SU**, **virtual certification** or certification in writing of their exemption from the requirement in 1.1 above, which may include any terms and conditions of exemption imposed by the **exemption panel** in terms of 5 below.
4. Any person in control of a part of the **SU campus** or occupying any other premises controlled by **SU** may:
 - 4.1. apply to the Chief Director: Facilities Management for operational exemption from 1.1 above, using the **designated SU platform**, either in relation to such part or premises generally or in relation to specific persons accessing such part or premises;
 - 4.2. in their application, specify the particulars of the exemption they are seeking and motivate the granting of the exemption, including by attaching any documents on which they rely;
 - 4.3. if requested by the **exemption panel**, provide further documents, permit an inspection of such part or premises by and participate in an online interview regarding their application with the panel, one of its members or a **SU staff-member** designated by the panel for that purpose; and
 - 4.4. receive from **SU**, **virtual certification** or certification in writing of the exemption from 1.1 above of such part or premises or of specific persons or classes of persons accessing such part or premises, which may include any terms and conditions of exemption imposed by the **exemption panel** in terms of 5 below.

5. When granting an exemption in terms of this institutional rule the **exemption panel** may impose any reasonable terms or conditions, including ones:
 - 5.1. requiring that they provide **SU** with negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) **COVID-19** test results issued not later than 48 hours before the first day in every week in which they seek access to the **SU campus** or any other premises controlled by **SU**: Provided that Chief Operating Officer, on application by a student who demonstrates that they or their family or their sponsor's family earn less than R600 000 per year, may grant them financial assistance from **SU** towards the cost of complying with this condition;
 - 5.2. restricting the times when and the places where the exempted persons may be on the **SU campus** or any other premises controlled by **SU**;
 - 5.3. requiring that they wear an **N95 mask** and/or other specified personal protective equipment when on the **SU campus** or any other premises controlled by **SU**;
 - 5.4. limiting the period of validity of the exemption and/or requiring that they re-apply to **SU** for an exemption on or before a specified date; and
 - 5.5. in the case of an exemption granted by the **academic exemption panel**, prohibiting the **SU student** concerned from accessing the **SU campus** or any other premises controlled by **SU** during their period of study unless they are **fully vaccinated**.
6. Any **SU student**, **SU staff-member** or **SU office-bearer** who:
 - 6.1. intentionally submits to **SU** false or materially incomplete information when seeking its acceptance that they are **fully vaccinated** or any exemption under this institutional rule;
 - 6.2. when seeking access to the **SU campus** or any other premises controlled by **SU**, submits to **SU** a false certification of its acceptance that they are **fully vaccinated** against **COVID-19** or of their exemption from the requirement that they be **fully vaccinated** against **COVID-19** in order to access the **SU campus** or any other premises controlled by **SU**;
 - 6.3. accesses the **SU campus** or any other premises controlled by **SU** without a certification referred to in 2 or 3.4 above or an applicable certification referred to in 4.4 above; or
 - 6.4. if exempted from the requirement that they be **fully vaccinated** against **COVID-19** in order to access the **SU campus** or any other premises controlled by **SU**, refuse or fail to comply with any term and condition of exemption imposed by the **exemption panel**,

shall be guilty of disciplinary misconduct.

7. Any other person who accesses the **SU campus** or any other premises controlled by **SU** without a certification referred to in 2 or 3.4 above or an applicable certification referred to in 4.4 above:
 - 7.1. shall be required to leave immediately; and
 - 7.2. may be prohibited by **SU** from accessing the **SU campus** and/or any other premises controlled by **SU** in the future, either permanently or for a specified period.
8. Any **SU staff-member** who does not satisfy **SU** by the **full implementation date** that they are **fully vaccinated** against **COVID-19** in the manner described in 2 above or is not exempted by **SU** in writing from that requirement in the manner described in 3 above and who does not work in a part of the **SU campus** or other premises controlled by **SU** which is subject to a certification referred to in 4.4 above applicable to them:
 - 8.1. shall be **reasonably accommodated** by **SU**; and
 - 8.2. if they cannot be **reasonably accommodated** by **SU**, may be liable to being redeployed or demoted to a position in which they can be **reasonably accommodated** or to having their services terminated by **SU** in accordance with labour law.
9. Any **SU student**, **SU staff-member** or **SU office-bearer** aggrieved by a decision adverse to them under this institutional rule, may appeal to the Chief Operating Officer against the decision in writing within 14 days. The Chief Operating Officer, or a senior **SU staff-member** or another suitably qualified person appointed by the Chief Operating Officer to deal with and determine the appeal or appeals generally, shall, in their discretion, determine the procedure to be followed in relation to the appeal, provided that it must be procedurally fair, protect the personal privacy of the appellant or anyone else where applicable and be aimed at the appeal being determined as quickly as the circumstances will allow. The outcome of the appeal shall be made known in a brief written record of decision which shall include the reasons for the outcome.
10. **SU** and any **exemption panel** will treat all **personal information** submitted in terms of this institutional rule as confidential and will process it in compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013.
11. By the **full implementation date** the Rectorate, if it has not already done so, shall approve a plan, which must be consistent with this institutional rule, outlining the measures that **SU** intends to implement in respect of the vaccination of its employees in accordance with the **Consolidated Direction**.
12. The owner of this institutional rule is the Chief Operating Officer, who, in addition to the duties imposed on them elsewhere in this institutional rule, is responsible for reporting to the Council on its implementation, proposing amendments to the Council and advising the Council on its rescission.

13. The curator of this institutional rule is the Chief Director: Facilities Management, who, in addition to the duties imposed on them elsewhere in this institutional rule, is responsible for communication about it with all **SU** stakeholders, issuing on behalf of **SU** such interpretations of its provisions as they may consider necessary or advisable, monitoring its implementation, advising the Chief Operator on issues concerning its implementation, possible amendment and possible rescission and convening task teams to assist in such monitoring or the giving of such advice.
14. As soon as practically possible after they have been made, the Registrar must publish this institutional rule and any amendments in accordance with clause 61 of the **SU Institutional Statute** and in such other manner as in their opinion is appropriate.
15. In this institutional rule, unless the context otherwise indicates:
 - 15.1. '**academic exemption panel**' means one or more committees appointed as such by the Chief Operating Officer, each comprising:
 - 15.1.1. a chairperson appointed by the Chief Operating Officer, who shall be the Registrar or a **SU staff-member** designated by the Registrar, and who shall have a casting vote should there be an equality of votes on any question before the committee;
 - 15.1.2. two members of the Senate appointed by the Chief Operating Officer; and
 - 15.1.3. a secretariat appointed by the Chief Operating Officer, who shall be members of the SU Governance Support and who shall not participate in the proceedings of the committee;
 - 15.2. '**automatically exempted**' means below the age of 12 years or such other age as the South African National Department of Health may designate as the minimum age at which persons in South Africa are eligible for vaccination against **COVID-19**;
 - 15.3. '**constitutional exemption panel**' means one or more committees appointed as such by the Chief Operating Officer, each comprising:
 - 15.3.1. at least three persons who, viewed collectively, are experts in constitutional law, ethics, religion and any other disciplines the Chief Operating Officer may consider appropriate, including a chairperson appointed by the Chief Operating Officer, who shall be a legally-qualified member of the SU Legal Services, an academic member of the staff of the Faculty of Law or an external lawyer, and who shall have a casting vote should there be an equality of votes on any question before the committee; and
 - 15.3.2. a secretariat appointed by the Chief Operating Officer, who shall be members of the SU Governance Support and who shall not participate in the proceedings of the committee;

- 15.4. **‘Consolidated Direction’** means the Consolidated Direction on Occupational Health and Safety Measures in Certain Workplaces published by the Minister of Employment and Labour under Government Notice R.499 in Government Gazette 44700 of 11 June 2021;
- 15.5. **‘COVID-19’** means the acute infectious disease in humans caused by a novel coronavirus (commonly referred to as SARS-CoV-2) which was originally identified in China in 2019 and became pandemic in 2020;
- 15.6. **‘designated SU platform’** means a mechanism announced by the Chief Operating Officer for submitting proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 in terms of 2.1 above and for making applications for exemption in terms of 3.1 and 4.1 above;
- 15.7. **‘exemption ground’** means:
- 15.7.1. in the case of an applicant who is a **SU student**, the absence of any need for their presence on **SU** premises for purposes of their study, as determined by the **academic exemption panel**: Provided that in determining this issue no regard shall be paid to any remote teaching and learning to which **SU** has resorted in order to maintain continuity of teaching and learning during the **COVID-19** pandemic;
 - 15.7.2. an objection to vaccination against **COVID-19** based on a religious or non-religious belief held by the applicant which is sincere, is not based on false information about the safety or efficacy of all the **COVID-19** vaccines approved by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority, and, in the opinion of the **constitutional exemption panel**, justifies an exemption from the requirement that the applicant be **fully vaccinated** against **COVID-19** in order to access the **SU campus** or any other premises controlled by **SU**; or
 - 15.7.3. a temporary or permanent medical condition which, in the opinion of the **medical exemption panel**, justifies a temporary or permanent exemption from the requirement that the applicant be **fully vaccinated** against COVID-19 in order to access the **SU campus** or any other premises controlled by **SU**;
 - 15.7.4. a temporary or permanent situation which, after considering the application by the person responsible for a part or some parts of the **SU campus** or premises controlled by **SU**, in the opinion of the **operational exemption panel**, justify that a temporary or permanent exemption due to exceptional circumstances pertaining to those places and/or all or some of the persons who access them, should be granted, either generally or in relation to specific persons or classes of persons accessing those places.
- 15.8. **‘exemption panel’** means, in relation to 1.2 and 3 above, the **academic exemption panel**, the **constitutional exemption panel** or the **medical exemption panel** and, in relation to 1.3 and 4 above, the **operational exemption panel**, as the case may be;

15.9. **'full implementation date'** shall mean 4 April 2022 or such later date as may be determined by the Council;

15.10. **'fully vaccinated'** means having received:

15.10.1. a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson **COVID-19** vaccine at least 14 days previously or, if a person qualifies for a **vaccine booster** for such vaccine, such vaccine booster at least 14 days previously;

15.10.2. the second dose of the Pfizer **COVID-19** vaccine at least 14 days previously or, if a person qualifies for a **vaccine booster** for such vaccine, such vaccine booster at least 14 days previously;

15.10.3. in the case of persons under the age of 18 years, a single dose of the Pfizer **COVID-19** vaccine at least 14 days previously or, if a person qualifies for a **vaccine booster** for such vaccine, such **vaccine booster** at least 14 days previously;

15.10.4. the required number of doses of, and any vaccine boosters in respect of, any other **COVID-19** vaccine approved by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority at least such period previously as the Authority or, failing the Authority, the manufacturer indicates for the vaccine or **vaccine booster** to take full effect; or

15.10.5. in relation to a person who has been vaccinated against **COVID-19** in another country, the required number of doses of, and any **vaccine boosters** in respect of, any other **COVID-19** vaccine approved by the relevant authority in that country at least such period previously as that authority or, failing that authority, the manufacturer indicates for the vaccine or **vaccine booster** to take full effect:

Provided that if the South African National Department of Health or any other institution or body acting with the approval of the Department prescribes any period different to any period specified in 15.10.1, 15.10.2, 15.10.3 or 15.10.4 above, the prescribed period shall prevail over the period so specified;

Provided further that if, after the **full implementation date**, the South African National Department of Health or any other institution or body acting with the approval of the Department makes **vaccine boosters** available to any persons or any class or classes of persons in South Africa to whom **vaccine boosters** were not previously available in South Africa, then, for purposes of this institutional rule, all such persons or all persons within such class or classes of persons shall cease to be fully vaccinated on the date three months after **vaccine boosters** are made available to them unless they have received

a **vaccine booster** at least such period previously as the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority or, failing the Authority, the manufacturer, indicates for the vaccine booster to take full effect:

Provided further that any person who so ceases to be fully vaccinated for purposes of this institutional rule shall remain so until they have received a **vaccine booster** and such period as the Authority or, failing the Authority, the manufacturer indicates for the vaccine booster to take full effect, has elapsed;

15.11. '**medical exemption panel**' means one or more committees appointed as such by the Chief Operating Officer, each comprising:

15.11.1. at least three persons who, viewed collectively, are experts in infectious diseases, general medicine, law and any other disciplines the Chief Operating Officer may consider appropriate, including a chairperson appointed by the Chief Operating Officer, who shall be a medically-qualified member of the SU Campus Health Service, an academic member of the staff of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences or an external medical doctor, and who shall have a casting vote should there be an equality of votes on any question before the committee; and

15.11.2. a secretariat appointed by the Chief Operating Officer, who shall be members of the SU Governance Support and who shall not participate in the proceedings of the committee;

15.12. '**N95 mask**' means a SANS 50149:2003 compliant respiratory protective device designed to achieve a very close facial fit and very efficient filtration of airborne particles;

15.13. '**official physical vaccination certificate**' means:

15.13.1. a certificate printed by the South African National Department of Health and completed by a person responsible for certifying the administration of **COVID-19** vaccinations by persons authorised to do so; or

15.13.2. a certificate printed by or on behalf of a foreign government or government body responsible for certifying the administration of **COVID-19** vaccinations by persons authorised by the relevant authority in that country to do so or such a certificate completed by such a person,

certifying that the person to whom the certificate applies has been **fully vaccinated**;

15.14. '**official virtual vaccination certificate**' means:

- 15.14.1. the **COVID-19** Vaccine Digital Certificate issued by the South African National Department of Health; or
- 15.14.2. an equivalent digital or electronic certificate issued by a foreign government or government body responsible for certifying the administration of **COVID-19** vaccinations by persons authorised by the relevant authority in that country to do so, certifying that the person to whom the certificate applies has been **fully vaccinated**;

15.15. '**operational exemption panel**' means a committee appointed as such by the Chief Operating Officer comprising:

- 15.15.1. the Chief Director: Facilities Management, or a **SU staff-member** designated by the Chief Director: Facilities Management, who shall be the chairperson, and who shall have a casting vote should there be an equality of votes on any question before the committee;
- 15.15.2. at least four other persons who, viewed collectively, are experts in infectious diseases, general medicine, facilities management, law and any other disciplines the Chief Operating Officer may consider appropriate; and
- 15.15.3. a secretariat appointed by the Chief Operating Officer, who shall be members of the SU Governance Support and who shall not participate in the proceedings of the committee.

15.16. '**personal information**' bears the meaning assigned in section 1 of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013;

15.17. '**reasonably accommodate**', in relation to a **SU staff-member**, means modify or adjust their job or working environment, if that can be achieved without causing **SU** unjustifiable expense or other hardship, so as to allow them to continue to work despite their not being **fully vaccinated** against **COVID-19**, including an adjustment that permits them to work off-site or at home or in isolation within the workplace, or to work on-site outside of ordinary hours, or, in instances of limited contact with others in the workplace, a requirement that they wear an **N95 mask** and/or other personal protective equipment, and '**reasonably accommodated**' bears a corresponding meaning;

15.18. '**SU**' means Stellenbosch University;

15.19. '**SU campus**' means the main campus in Stellenbosch, the campus of the Medical and Health Sciences faculty in Tygerberg, the campus of the University of Stellenbosch Business School and the School of Public Leadership in Bellville Park, the campus of the faculty of Military Science in Saldanha, the Ukwanda

Rural Clinical School in Worcester and any other centres of teaching and learning **SU** may have at any given time;

- 15.20. '**SU Institutional Statute**' means the institutional statute of SU published under Government Notice 1062 in Government Gazette 42636 of 16 August 2019 by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology in accordance with section 33(1) of the Higher Education Act, 1997;
- 15.21. '**SU office-bearer**' means the holder of an office created by or in terms of the **SU Institutional Statute** who is not a **SU staff-member**, including the Chancellor and the relevant members of the Council, of any committees established by the Council, of the Institutional Forum and of the executive committee of the Convocation;
- 15.22. '**SU staff-member**' means any employee of **SU** and includes an officer or employee of a company or other entity owned or controlled by **SU**;
- 15.23. '**SU student**' means a student registered for any course of study offered by **SU**, whether full-time or part-time and whether or not such course, if completed successfully, will result in the award of a degree, diploma, certificate or other formal qualification;
- 15.24. '**vaccine booster**' means a dose of a **COVID-19** vaccine additional to the number of doses for initial full vaccination against **COVID-19**, and any further such additional doses:
- 15.24.1. as determined by the South African National Department of Health and made available to any persons or any class or classes of persons in South Africa by the Department or any other institution or body acting with the approval of the Department, in relation to any **COVID-19** vaccine approved for use in South Africa by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority; or
- 15.24.2. as determined by the relevant authority in another country and made available to any persons or any class or classes of persons in that country by a relevant authority or any other institution or body acting with the approval of that authority, in relation to any **COVID-19** vaccine approved for use in that country by a relevant authority;
- 15.25. '**virtual certification**' means certification by means of a digital or electronic certificate issued by **SU**.