



May 2021

LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

The media on a number of occasions reported on the University's Language Communication Committee. Read the Letter to SU staff by Prof Hester Klopper, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Strategy and Internationalisation, on the committee [here](#).

The facts about the committee are the following:

SU has a duty to communicate about current affairs such as gender-based violence, higher education funding, transformation and language. To this end, a structure has been set up to coordinate issue-based communication. This is nothing out of the ordinary for large organisations such as universities. The aim is to ensure consistency in our key messaging, effective responses to media enquiries, and meaningful contributions to the public debate.

In addition, a Language Communication Committee (LCC) has been established to support SU's communication on the Language Policy implementation and review. When it comes to an issue as important as language, the University has a responsibility to communicate clearly, deepen the discussion and make constructive contributions, which could also lead to further engagement with various stakeholders. Continuously improving our communication is important to us, and the LCC is a consultative structure to help us achieve this.

SU's Language Policy advances multilingualism, taking into account "the diversity of our society and the intellectual wealth inherent in that diversity". SU embarked on this route to increase equitable access, foster an inclusive campus culture and support student success, and remains committed to stay the course.

We are confident that our students have more choices, broader access and a better future as a result of our approach to language.

Civil and fact-based public discussion on issues that affect us all is not only an important facet of a free society, but also creates an informed society, which is critical for our shared future. For this reason, we welcome all SU stakeholders' participation in the public debate on current affairs, including the implementation and review of our Language Policy, and would like to reiterate the University management's commitment to openness, inclusivity and reasonableness in engaging on all issues.

We invite everyone to engage the University on the role of Afrikaans in an inclusive multilingual context, and to take part in the formal Language Policy review process.