

Timeline: PAIA Court Order of 13 August 2020

25 October 2017	Western Cape High Court finds in the favour of SU – the Language Policy of 2016 does not have to be revised or set aside.
10 October 2019	Ten judges of the Constitutional Court unanimously ruled in favour of SU and confirmed the ruling of the Western Cape High Court of 2017 that SU’s multilingual and inclusive 2016 Language Policy complies with the Constitution and the National Language Policy for Higher Education (2002). The process the University had followed to adopt the Language Policy was thorough, exhaustive, inclusive and properly deliberative.
2 December 2019	<p>SU Council adopts the Burton Fourie Report at the last Council meeting of 2019. The Fourie Report could find “no evidence to support a finding that the conduct of the Rector in regard to the nomination of Justice [Edwin] Cameron for the position of Chancellor of the Stellenbosch University constituted a serious violation of the law or serious misconduct”.</p> <p>He writes in the Report: In the report, he writes: “In my view, the [above] facts and circumstances, and in particular the conduct of the Rector, do not, when viewed holistically, give rise to a reasonable apprehension of bias on the part of Justice Cameron due to influence brought to bear upon him by Prof De Villiers. At best the evidence shows that the Rector, as he was duty-bound to do so, assisted – probably even taking the lead in identifying suitable candidates for the nomination of a new Chancellor. Justice Cameron, on the other hand, only put his name forward for nomination when the green light was received from Adv Heunis on behalf of Gelyke Kanse. A conspectus of the evidence as a whole does not, in my opinion, point to improper conduct on the part of either of them in regard to the process of the nomination of Justice Cameron, nor that they had conducted themselves at any stage in a manner that reasonably conveyed that Justice Cameron was biased in the Gelyke Kanse litigation.”</p>
9 March 2020	SU receives PAIA request from Dr Leon Schreiber to make available information that Judge Fourie had in his investigation. SU initially refuses the request, but confirmed that Dr Schreiber is free to bring a court application if he is of the opinion that SU did not make a correct decision.
27 July 2020	SU decides not to oppose an application in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) that relates to the independent investigation of Judge Burton Fourie.
13 August 2020	Court order in the Western Cape High Court on Thursday 13 August 2020 according to which a request in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) has been granted.