**Disability Unit support during COVID-19**

**Hello fellow Matie**

**A hearty congratulations to you!** Now that you have been through three months and a bit of online learning, teaching and assessment, you must be wondering how you made it? Yet most of you did! A hearty congratulations to you! The COVID-19 pandemic plunged every person on campus into an unexpected space, and we all had to hit the ground running!

You had many questions about having enough data and suitable devices, will extra time be given to quizzes and other online tests? Will you have access to a scribe, a reader, library material… yet you mostly made it!

Have you thought about how your assistive devices and technologies have enabled you to be ready for this online environment? It is remarkable how you have adapted. We are also aware that there were some difficulties, but we could iron out most of these. Having a disability can be daunting as you have more to contend with than most other students. So many kudos to you for having come through the first semester alongside the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Ongoing consultations with us**

We still do online consultations via Teams or Zoom, whichever suits you best. Many students use email to make contact with us. If you are unsure of support do email **disability@sun.ac.za**. Please continue to liaise with the disability support practitioner that you have been working with all along, since pre-COVID-19.

As we move towards the second semester, we thought it prudent to remind you of some of the support that is available even though most of you are not on campus.

We have dedicated staff who convert PowerPoints, articles, books and question papers into accessible formats for you to read, particularly if you use screenreading software such as JAWS, ZoomText and Read & Write. Do contact **Braille@sun.ac.za**with your new subjects for this semester, so that you can receive your reading material timeously.

If you are having difficulties with tests, exams and support, then speak to the practitioner that you are liaising with or contact disability@sun.ac.za with your concern.

**Upcoming workshops in September**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Disability Unit will present the Lead with Disability accredited workshops for students online, so join us to learn more about disability inclusion. Watch out for the online announcement or contact disability@sun.ac.za for more information.

We also facilitate South African Sign Language sessions where you can learn more about Deaf Culture and learn basic signs. This will be done virtually. Contact disability@sun.ac.za

**Test and exam concessions applications.**You can still apply before 17 August and 28 September for test and exam concessions should you have a disability. Contact skryftyd@sun.ac.za or disability@sun.ac.za for the application forms. Also find the application forms at Test and Exams on the SU website. View further information about the Disability Unit at **www.sun.ac.za/disability**