

## Letter of Support for Student Initiative

16 May 2014

After lengthy discussions with the relevant stakeholders, the Students' Representative Council has decided to support the **Blind Protest for Stellenbosch Students**, with the first protest commencing on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2014. The SRC sees this initiative as meaningful and urgent, but furthermore of a magnitude that it affects all Matie students.

After discussions with the organisers, in which the mandate and the outcomes of the protest had been outlined, we came to the decision to support the protest and avail possible resources.

The main objectives of the protest are:

- To improve awareness of the urgency of the situation, not among students, but rather among University management, campus security, local authority and other relevant stakeholders.
- To place pressure on the abovementioned stakeholders in order to ensure that action is taken to alleviate crime, i.e. methods of crime prevention and not merely crime investigation should be employed.
- To hand over a memorandum containing numerous suggestions of how the problem can be solved.
- To lobby for support by circulating a petition that may serve as support for our memorandum.
- To establish a relationship of cooperation between students, organisers and other relevant stakeholders.



As per mandate of the protest, we do not support the following:

- Accusing any specific stakeholder for neglecting the plight
- Creation and advocating of aggressive protesting on campus
- Creating of relationships of distrust between any relevant stakeholders

We commit ourselves to taking the cause of safety in/and around campus, in collaboration with the protest organisers, beyond the Blind Protest. This will ensure that the issue of safety is emphasised not solely focusing on past and current incidents, but championed unremittingly throughout the second semester, and academic year.

As the SRC, we commend the organisers for their initiative, and their willingness to take action. As the campaign continues, the SRC will work with the organisers in implementing a sustainable plan moving forward. Furthermore, we do not claim, or attempt to take ownership of this initiative, as this would delegitimise active citizenry and student driven governance, components largely reflected in the University's Institutional Plan 2014 -2018.

To conclude, this initiative highlights the significance of student participation, and the impact students can have on issues relevant to campus as a whole. We as the SRC commit to providing open platforms, and further promote the student voice to all levels of management.

MJ Dippenaar

*SRC Chairperson 2014*

*University of Stellenbosch*

