

On Wednesday, the 7th of October, the SRC Executive voted in favour of a motion to reject the Rectors Management Team's appointment of Mr Pieter Kloppers as the new Dean of Students. We have requested management to reverse and revoke the appointment of the new Dean of Students before 12 pm today (8 October 2015). Failure to heed this demand will result in the SRC boycotting the SRC handover function taking place this afternoon.

We find it completely unacceptable that Mr Pieter Kloppers was appointed without any student representation or consultation. Furthermore, the new position does no justice to what students have consistently been calling for. The original position of the Dean of Students needs to be reinstated and advertised. We are very concerned with management's approach in addressing the necessity of adequate representation of students in management by merely renaming a position and not restoring the Dean of Students. This makes us question management's statements in Parliament with regards to its dedication to transform this institution in line with Vision 2030.

The lack of a true Dean of Students leaves a gap between students and management where students have no direct link to the university management and institutional knowledge is not disseminated. A Dean of Students is a key role that facilitates the relationship between management and students; it thus enhanced the capacity of any student structure within this University.

The SRC has been calling on management for over 3 years to reinstate the position and because of management's lack of consultation with the SRC they leave us no choice but to boycott a function that they will be attending and that they have organised.

The Rectors Management Team must publicly reverse and revoke this problematic appointment before 12 pm today. Following this a public declaration must be sent to all students, via an email, in this regard and a new process must be initiated which includes students in the appointment of a new Dean as well as a clear commitment to diversity and substantive equality in the new appointment.