



## **The DUT Covid-19 Solidarity Fund; Committed, Compassionate**

### **Administration and Management of the Fund**

Subsequent to the announcement of DUT Management's establishment of the DUT Covid-19 Solidarity Fund (with a commitment of staff constituting peromnes grades 1-5 contributing a minimum of 5% of their salaries for a period of three months towards the fund) it has been successfully set up with the necessary channels and processes in place to begin receiving pledges and donations. The communique had indicated that the fund would focus on providing care and support for those most vulnerable members of our DUT community affected by the current Covid-19 pandemic. Below is a brief outline containing information on how the funds will be spent and how the fund will be managed/administered.

Taking into cognizance, the fact that the DUT Solidarity Fund was inspired by and set up in line with the National South African Solidarity Fund, with a focus on *Care and Support*, the DUT Fund will be guided by the National Fund's understanding and framing of *Care and Support*. The National Fund has identified the four following aims:

- Prevention – Prevent the spread of the disease by supporting measures to “flatten the<sup>1</sup> curve” and lower infection rates;
- Detection – Detect and understand the magnitude of the disease;
- Care – Care for those in hospital or medical care; and
- Support – Support those whose lives have been disrupted by the pandemic.

### **Care**

Taking the above into consideration, the DUT Solidarity Fund will support individuals, initiatives and projects that pertain to the following with respect to care:

- Provision of care (including compassionate care) for those in hospital and medical care as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Assisting with medical costs related to the treatment of Covid-19 especially students whose medical aid may not fully cover costs.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thesouthafrican.com/lifestyle/what-is-lockdown-solidarity-fund-and-how-to-access/>

## **Support**

In supporting those whose lives have been disrupted by the pandemic, the DUT Fund will support individuals, initiatives and projects pertaining to the following:

- Devices and data to access online learning for students. Deserving first year students in particular will be prioritized given the need to get them online confidently as part of their first year experience as they would not have had sufficient time to familiarize themselves with the DUT LMS. In addition, financially constrained (non-NSFAS) students would also be prioritized as they would not have access to an allowance that they could draw on, e.g. the Advanced Diploma students;
- Provision of meal vouchers to augment the existing Food Programme.

**Note:** Inputs received also proposed the inclusion of financial assistance towards transport and accommodation for students, however the task team agreed to exclude these points in lieu of the fact that NSFAS students (of which a large number of DUT students are NSFAS funded) are covered in terms of accommodation – also the view that this would be unsustainable. In addition, a point about mental health and psychological support was raised, however, DUT does have existing mechanisms to assist students and staff. Online support has also been made available in this regard during lockdown.

## **Administration and Management of the Fund**

The DUT Advancement and Alumni Relations Office will be responsible for the administration of the fund in terms of ensuring that the channels and media platforms for submitting pledges and making donations are operational. The Human Resources Department will be responsible for processing staff pledges received and ensure that the pledged salary deductions are implemented.

## **Governance Structure for the Fund**

With regards to the identification and approval of funding support for worthwhile initiatives, it is proposed that a COVID-19 Funding Committee be established consisting of the following:

- (i) Dir AAR
- (ii) Chair Covid-19 Task Team
- (iii) Dean of Students
- (iv) Head of the DUT Clinics (Sister Soori Wardthen)
- (v) SD: Human Resources.
- (vi) SD: Corporate Affairs
- (vii) CFO or Finance Representative.

The committee would assess funding proposals/approve these and report to EMC on how the funds have been allocated.

**NB: If you have not yet donated or pledged, please use the link below to access the donation page or go to the main DUT Website and click on DUT Solidarity Fund (towards top right of the page.):**

- <https://www.dutalumni.com/dutcovid-19>.