



1. PURPOSE

This policy regulates the activities of the Student Affairs Department and those sections of the University that provide student support services. It outlines the manner in which the University intends to realise its commitment to providing support services for students. These support services include all activities and functions that contribute to the creation of an enabling environment for student participation in institutional activities.

2. RATIONALE

Most MUT students come from disadvantaged backgrounds and need a great deal of support if they are to overcome the deficits that many of them bring to the Institution. The support that they receive contributes towards their success in academic activities as well as in life after completion of their studies. While providing educational support is the responsibility of the academic arm of the University, the Student Affairs department have a responsibility to ensure that students benefit from the services and resources provided by the Institution. The department provides a regulatory support service for student governance and facilitates effective involvement of student leaders in the running of the Institution. Therefore the Student Affairs Policy is essential to regulate the work of the Student Services Department.

3. SCOPE

The Mangosuthu University of Technology Student Affairs Policy applies to all staff who administer student affairs or have to deal with students in any way, as well as to all students and student organisations.

4. POLICY PRINCIPLES

Within the limits of its capacity, financial or otherwise, and without impinging on the rights and desires of the students it wishes to serve, the Student Affairs Department commits itself to supporting and contributing to the holistic development of all students of MUT.

- 4.1 The Department will promote the affirmation of diversity and multiculturalism within the student body;
- 4.2 The Department will attempt to enhance the capacity of student leaders;
- 4.3 The Department will support the Students Representative Council (SRC) and those students' clubs and societies (political, cultural, sporting, or other) which are affiliated to the Students Representative Council as well as those that are not affiliated to the SRC;
- 4.4 The Department will support the intellectual development, academic success and eventual employability of the University's students in the following ways:
 - 4.4.1 By providing appropriate board and accommodation within the limits of financial constraints;
 - 4.4.2 By striving to provide financial aid to those students who need and deserve it;
 - 4.4.3 By providing counselling, career guidance and health services to students in need of such services;
 - 4.4.4 By contributing to the creation of an environment that is conducive to living and learning;
- 4.5 The Department will attempt to support the physical health and vitality of the student body through the provision of appropriate sporting facilities and encouraging participation in sporting activities;
- 4.6 The Department will attempt to provide full support services for students with special needs;
- 4.7 The Department will commit itself to supporting students who are foreign nationals in all aspects of student life as well as in their integration into Mangosuthu University of Technology;
- 4.8 The Department will commit itself to working towards the provision of a student centre on campus - a place where students can congregate and relax between lectures, where selected services will be provided to them, and where they can develop a sense of social cohesion as students of the Mangosuthu University of Technology; and
- 4.9 The Department will create a safe residence environment for students.

5. RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

- 5.1 The **Student Affairs Department staff members** have the responsibility and authority to implement this policy, which applies to all the students of the University;
- 5.2 The **office of the Dean of Students** will ensure that the policy is implemented; and
- 5.3 The **Student Support and Development Committee** will monitor compliance with the policy.

6. POLICY CONTEXT

- 6.1 The most closely relevant context is the University's Vision and Mission statement, which derives from a number of national policy documents relevant to the provision of higher education, and ultimately from the South African constitution, which provides for the enjoyment of certain rights and privileges on the part of all South African citizens in the context of a democratic, participative social order;
- 6.2 The policy will be informed by the following documents:
 - 6.2.1 The Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act no: 101 of 1997) as amended; and
 - 6.2.2 Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No: 85 of 1993).

7. POLICY REVIEW

The Student Affairs Policy will be reviewed every five years.

N/B: This Policy was approved by MUT Council on: **30/09/2009**