



UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT  
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA

Office of the Rector and Vice-Chancellor  
Kantoor van die Rektor en Visekanselier  
Ofisi ya Morekoro le Motlatsa Mokanseliri  
IHhovisi loMphathi neSekelashansela

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20 April 2021

Prof Mamokgethi Phakeng  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of Cape Town  
Per email: [Mamokgethi.Phakeng@uct.ac.za](mailto:Mamokgethi.Phakeng@uct.ac.za) | [julia.novella@uct.ac.za](mailto:julia.novella@uct.ac.za)

Dear Prof Phakeng

### **MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE UCT COMMUNITY**

On behalf of the executive management of the University of the Free State (UFS), its staff, students, and the entire university community, I would like to extend a message of sincere support and sympathy to the University of Cape Town (UCT) with the damage to the Jagger Library Reading Room, other buildings, and property on the Groote Schuur Campus in Rondebosch caused by the fire on 18 April 2021. The damage to the Reading Room is indeed a great loss for the university, our country, as well as our collective historical memory.

It is a relief to know that no lives were lost and that everyone remained safe during the tragedy. We carry the UCT community in our thoughts during this time and throughout the process of recovery and rebuilding what was damaged or lost. Rest assured that we are ready to provide any support needed by the campus community.

I wish you strength and all the best through this challenging time.

Regards

**Prof. Francis W Petersen**  
Rector and Vice-Chancellor, University of the Free State  
Rektor en Visekanselier, Universiteit van die Vrystaat  
Morekoro le Motlatsa Mokanseliri, Yunivesithi ya Freistata  
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