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Cc:
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Subject: Statement of support

Date
21 April 2021

Dear Professor Phakeng, dear colleague,

On behalf of the Board of the University of Groningen and the whole university community, we would like to express our sympathy and support. We were deeply shocked to hear the news of the fire on Table Mountain, and to see images of the evacuations and of a burning Jagger Library and other buildings. Although we are told that the fire is currently under control, we know that it has caused immense material damage, as well as tremendous anxiety. We can only begin to imagine your fear when seeing a raging fire coming towards the campus, the hospital and the city. And all of this on top of an ongoing Covid-19 situation.

Regarding your Library and its precious collections, we would like to inform you that our University Library, together with 12 other Dutch university libraries and the Royal Library of the Netherlands will soon connect with your librarians, to see if and how they can be of assistance.

Needless to say, we are open to discuss with you in which other ways the University of Groningen could support the University of Cape Town in these difficult times. It may as yet be too soon to tell, but please do not hesitate to approach us.

Wishing you courage and strength.
With our warmest greetings,
Board of the University of Groningen,

Prof. Jouke de Vries
President

Prof. Cisca Wijmenga
Rector Magnificus

Drs. Hans Biemans
Member of the Board