



NIGER DELTA UNIVERSITY

Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State

RE: NIGER DELTA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' PROTEST; SETTING THE RECORDS STRAIGHT

Recently, the social media has been inundated with several falsehood pertaining to the Niger Delta University in respect to the closure of the school fees/registration of courses portal and the imposition of uniform on students. Several positions have been canvassed by the public and some members of the university community. It has become pertinent that the true position of the university be presented for the records and posterity.

1. Closure of School Fees Payment/ Course Registration Portal

The University has rules and regulations for the payment of fees and registration of courses (See page 12, sections 2.4, 2.5, & 2.6 of the Student Handbook of May, 2015). The University in implementing these regulations for the 2019/2020 academic session in August, 2019 met a similar agitation by students. As stakeholders of the University, the Bayelsa State House of Assembly intervened and pleaded with the University Management for an extension of the deadline for payment of fees and course registration for one month (being 30th October, 2019). At the end of the October, 2019 deadline, the University Senate still extended the deadline to allow students to register before the 1st semester examinations. Consequently, the payment and registration of courses was left open for another One year ten months and was only closed on the 11th of June, 2021 as against the One month extension earlier agreed with the Bayelsa State House of Assembly. During this period, the University Senate also graciously allowed the students to register for their courses without payment of school fees, some students complied while others refused. It was also discovered that many persons, who claim to be students have no evidence of payment of fees nor registration of courses from year one to their penultimate year. Some do not even have matriculation number but claim to have been writing exams with JAMB registration numbers which is absurd in a University system.

The University Senate, in order to compute and approve results of duly registered students, decided to close the portal at the expiration of a two weeks notification period in June 11, 2021 in line with the rules and regulations contained in the Student Handbook of May, 2015.

2. Student Dress Code

The issue of dress code is the practice of all Universities. The University must be seen as a place that inculcates discipline and encourages good behaviour. Senate observed in several occasions that students violate the existing dress code as contained in the Student Handbook. The University Senate insists that the dress code must be implemented in full; and also encourages the professional programmes to adhere strictly to their professional conduct and dress codes. In view of that, the Vice-Chancellor interacted with the student community on faculty basis. So, there was no imposition of uniform at any point in time and at no time did the University request students to pay any amount for uniforms. The public may be informed that there are programmes that are already complying with the University dress code as contained in the Student Handbook. i.e., Faculty of Law, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy, Mass Communication programme in Faculty of Social Sciences and Guidance and Counselling programme in the Faculty of Education. Please note that in all these instances the University was not involved in the procurement of their dresses.

The University Management wishes to inform the public to discountenance whatever rumour trending in the social media. The University is committed to delivering on its mandate.

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Public Relations Officer