

## **CLARIFICATION ON SUMMER SEMESTER FEES**

Dear USIU-Africa Parents,

I have noted that many of you have raised questions about the fee structure that we have put in place for the Summer Semester. I am writing to you today to give you more clarity on the situation and some insights into our operations in order for us to find a way forward together.

Before I go into that, I would like to thank all of you for the support that you have given us over the years, as well as the support you have given our learners as we transitioned into online learning towards the end of the last semester.

During these difficult times occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, we know that many of you may be faced not only with health emergencies, but also with economic difficulty and the ensuing fear and uncertainty that these times have created. We understand your pain. We desperately want to help you.

As a non-profit institution, the University does not make extra margins for profits. This means that more often than not, the fees we receive from our students needs to be supplemented by donor contributions to allow us to give our students affordable international education. This means that if we were to eliminate fees, we would also have to terminate the services of the faculty and staff, who continue to support students even as they learn remotely.

While we have registered a drop in some costs, such as electricity, internet, clinic medicine dispensing, security and cleaning, we have also incurred additional costs. These include library costs that have risen because we have to purchase e-textbooks for students' course texts and paying for subscriptions to enable students access critical content on several specialised databases, including the acquisition of international software, like Blackboard and CX, which are extremely expensive, but are crucial for our learning. It is because we made such heavy investments in our electronic infrastructure that we were better placed than other universities to transition to remote teaching and learning at this time.

The vast majority of our operating costs are in our faculty and staff, who are the backbone of our institution. In our desire to help you, we do not in turn want to hurt them or compromise the quality of our education. It broke our hearts when we had to let go of casual workers and also terminate some staff contracts as part of the cost cutting measures.

These cost reductions have enabled us to eliminate two of the three sets of fees mandated for every student. The medical center fee (Kshs. 2,000) and the student activity fee (Kshs.1, 000) will be waived. However, the library fee will be maintained for reasons explained above. IT and lab fees, which are specific to those programs, will be charged depending on the needs of the courses that will be offered during the Summer semester and will be communicated directly to the students in those programs.

I wish we could do more, but our lecturers and support staff continue to work to ensure that we provide a seamless experience during this time. We do applaud the many faculty who have volunteered to teach extra classes for free and staff who have volunteered to work extra hours for free because they are concerned about our students.

We are still looking at other ways to help you. We have launched aggressive campaigns with our faculty and staff writing grant proposals to donors to appeal for funding that can go towards even more scholarships than usual for those who may be facing challenges during this time. If you are facing extreme hardship at this time, please reach out and we will work with you to see if there is any way in which we can use our limited resources to support you and your student as they undertake their studies.

During the summer semester, it is our ambition to continue our robust industry-leading international learning online and move back to face-to-face classes when the Government of Kenya eases national crisis restrictions. Should you wish to speak directly to any of the University's leadership, please refer to the list provided alongside this statement.

We will continue to provide the best international education at the most affordable prices of any American accredited tertiary institution in the world. We are here for you. We exist for you. Our students are our mission, vision, heart, and soul. We look forward to May 11 when we start the summer semester so that we can continue offering our students an education that can truly take them places.

United Together.

Prof. Paul Zeleza

**Vice Chancellor**

**ANNEX 1: NAMES AND CONTACTS OF THE UNIVERSITY'S LEADERSHIP**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b>Management Board</b>		
Prof. Paul Zeleza	Vice Chancellor	<a href="mailto:pzeleza@usiu.ac.ke">pzeleza@usiu.ac.ke</a>
Amb. Prof. Ruthie Rono	Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic & Student Affairs.	<a href="mailto:rrono@usiu.ac.ke">rrono@usiu.ac.ke</a>
Dr. Paul Okanda	Director, Information and Communications Technology.	<a href="mailto:pokanda@usiu.ac.ke">pokanda@usiu.ac.ke</a>
Ms. Helen P. Ambasa	Director, Legal Services & Company Secretary.	<a href="mailto:hombima@usiu.ac.ke">hombima@usiu.ac.ke</a>
Dr. Judith Nyakundi-Obura	Director, Finance, Ag. Director, University Advancement.	<a href="mailto:jobura@usiu.ac.ke">jobura@usiu.ac.ke</a>
Night Nzovu	Director, Administration.	<a href="mailto:nnzovu@usiu.ac.ke">nnzovu@usiu.ac.ke</a>
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<b>Deans of Schools</b>		
Prof. Munyae Mulinge	Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic Affairs.	<a href="mailto:mmulinge@usiu.ac.ke">mmulinge@usiu.ac.ke</a>
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Prof. Martin C. Njoroge	Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences	<a href="mailto:mcnjoroge@usiu.ac.ke">mcnjoroge@usiu.ac.ke</a>
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Prof. Adema Valerie Palapala	Dean, School of Science and Technology	<a href="mailto:vadema@usiu.ac.ke">vadema@usiu.ac.ke</a>