

31 October 2024

Statement: CIRCoRe Steering Committee

Dear colleagues and students,

The CIRCoRe Steering Committee held an emergency meeting on Friday, 25 October 2024, in the wake of the Joint Statement by Stellenbosch University (SU) and the Association for the Advancement of Wilgenhof Residents (AWIR) and the Wilgenhof House Committee that was released on Wednesday, October 24, 2024.

By the end of this meeting, we had arrived at the conclusion that there is little regard for the thoughtfulness, energy and time the CIRCoRe Steering Committee, alongside members of the CIRCoRe process and university staff and students, have collectively put into giving effect to the sentiment and recommendations of the Khampepe Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of Racism at SU.

Consequently, we, the heads of the CIRCoRe workstreams as well as the External Advisor, being part of the Steering Committee, tendered our collective resignation from CIRCoRe.

Since this, we have met with the Rector where we discussed the reasons for our resignation, and also highlighted our individual commitment to the wider transformation project at SU which includes the objectives of CIRCoRe. Furthermore, we agreed to jointly develop a termination plan and process to ensure that the benefits already gained through CIRCoRe are not lost.

The development of these plans will involve CIRCoRe members and other key role-players in the University, including the Advisory Committee to CIRCoRe. The termination plan will then be implemented under the office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor: Social Impact, Transformations and Personnel.

Once the termination plan has been finalised in consultation with relevant individuals and structures, this will be shared with the University community in an updated statement.

We would like to thank all those who have offered their time, expertise, and skills in advancing transformation at the institution and call upon you all to work with us as we bring initiatives and projects begun in the workstreams to a close and to synthesise all recommendations made and those still in the development process into a final report.

Yours sincerely,

Heads of the CIRCoRe workstreams

viz.,

Professor Ronelle Carolissen

Dr Phila Msimang

Professor Kopano Ratele

Dr Leslie van Rooi

Dr Sharman Wickham

and Professor Andre Keet (External Advisor)