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## Statement issued by Stellenbosch University

(Issued 28 May & updated 30 May 2017: as published on the SU website)

### Campus community shocked by hijacking, death of a student

"Our campus community is appalled and shocked by this senseless act and our hearts go out to the family and friends of the student who has lost her life and to the injured student. We are very relieved to hear that the SAPS has arrested suspects in connection with the hijacking. The perpetrators should be met with the full extent of the law."

This was the message of Prof Wim de Villiers, Rector and Vice-Chancellor of Stellenbosch University (SU), on learning of the kidnapping of two Matie students over the weekend. Ms Hannah Cornelius, a BA Humanities student, was found dead on Saturday (27 May), while a male student was admitted to hospital with serious injuries.

Prof De Villiers expressed his deepest condolences with those involved and said: "Our thoughts are with the victims of this horrific crime. We wish the injured student well and we will do everything in our power to assist – also in aiding the SAPS with their investigation."

Staff of the Division of Student Affairs were in contact with the parents on Saturday night and started to provide support to Ms Cornelius' friends. Trauma counsellors have presented debriefing sessions at Ms Cornelius' residence and are on standby to provide support. The University's Crisis Service number is 082 557 0880 and students are encouraged to make use of the services provided.

The Police confirmed on Saturday afternoon that cases of murder, attempted murder and hijacking are under investigation. According to a SAPS statement the female student was found on Saturday morning at about 08:30 on the Knorhoek Road with injuries. A blue VW Citi Golf that they were driving was hijacked by three suspects. The SAPS requested that anyone who can provide further information to contact Crime Stop at 08600 10111.

A memorial service for Cornelius will be held on Friday 2 June at 11:00, at the Dutch Reformed Church in Fish Hoek.

- Read the Student Representative Council's statement [here](#).

### [SRC STATEMENT ON KIDNAPPING & DEATH OF SU STUDENT]

28 May 2017

For immediate attention

The SRC has learned with shock and devastation at the news of the death of another Stellenbosch University student after a kidnapping on Saturday 27 May 2017. Two students - a male and a female were kidnapped, with the male escaping & now in hospital while a female body, believed to be that of the said SU student was found, according to SAPS.

Says Rector & Vice-Chancellor, Prof Wim de Villiers: 'Our campus community is appalled and shocked by this senseless act and our hearts go out to the family and friends of the student who has lost her life and to the injured student. We are very relieved to hear that the SAPS has arrested two suspects in connection with the hijacking. The perpetrators should be met with the full extent of the law.'

The SRC sends its condolences to the family and friends of the victim of this senseless crime which comes at a time of heightened anxiety in our country in terms of crime.

Staff of the Division of Student Affairs were in contact with the parents on Saturday night and started to provide support to friends of the deceased student. Trauma counsellors have presented debriefing sessions at the deceased student's residence and are on standby to provide support. The University's Crisis Service number is 082 557 0880 and students are encouraged to make use of the services provided.

May she rest in peace.

#### RESPONSE TO THE CAPE ARGUS RELATED TO SAFETY CONCERNS (29 MAY 2017)

The safety of our students and staff remains a primary concern and the University is continuously reviewing and refining its safety and security arrangements. Although this particular incident did not take place on campus, it will, like in fact all incidents on and around campus, be used as an opportunity for further refinement and for engagement with other security role-players in town.

As an institution the ideal would be to offer our students a safe and crime-free university town to roam about unrestricted, but with rising crime statistics in our country, this is just not possible. Despite the various initiatives listed below, the constantly changing security situation in the country, pose a specific challenge.

Over the last few years SU has:

- discontinued exams and tests at night;
- instituted a shuttle service on campus and surrounds, as well as a pedestrian escort service that is available at night;
- doubled the number of guards patrolling the primary routes on campus;
- upgraded pedestrian routes;
- rolled out a vast street camera network;
- established safety kiosks on campus;
- increased the visibility of security officers, patrol vehicles and motorcycles;
- started creating security zones such as the one on the *Rooiplein*, where a mast with cameras and lights has been erected;
- increased the use of technology, reaction capacity and awareness campaigns focusing on staff and students; and
- forged active partnerships with the SAPS, Stellenbosch Municipality and the broader security community in the town.