

# MAKERERE

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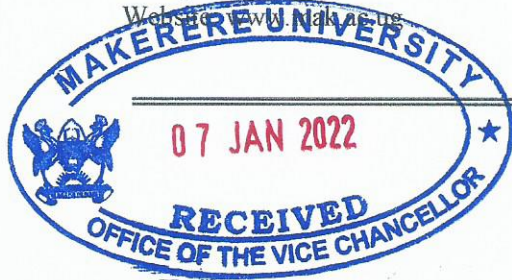


# UNIVERSITY

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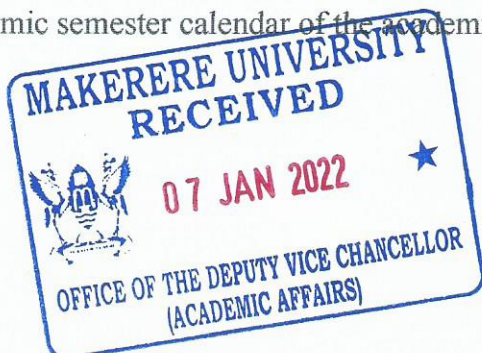
To;  
The Vice Chancellor,  
Makerere University,  
Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe

STUDENTS' GUILD



**PETITION TO REVERSE THE APPROVED STAGGERED LEARNING SYSTEM EMBRACED IN THE SEMESTER CALENDER OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022.**

1. **THAT** your humble petitioner is a fully registered student of Makerere University, pursuing a degree in Bachelor of Pharmacy in her third year of study. She is the Guild president of Makerere University in the 87<sup>th</sup> Students' Guild, of sound mind and of good conscience.
2. **THAT** the petitioner brings this petition to you on a matter of public interest and is interested in the University achieving its objectives of delivering quality education to all average Ugandans as a tenet of not only constitutionalism but also development of the future generation.
3. **THAT** the petitioner is up to date with the situation of COVID 19 in Uganda and how it has affected the education sector and in particular, Makerere University.
4. **THAT** because of COVID 19, the University Council adopted the Open Distance And E-Learning System (ODEL) which was passed way back in 2015 but only became effective for the whole University as a general module of study upon the surge of the deadly corona virus.
5. **THAT** various College administrations in the academic year 2020/2021 have been using this system to engage learners in a staggered manner. Reference is made to the Makerere University academic semester calendar of the academic year 2020/2021; (attached as Appendix A).



6. **THAT** the petitioner is a witness that students have for now two years participated in the staggered system of learning but have not appreciated its fruits arguing that it is high time to get back to the normal where all students come to campus and study physically at once for the full academic year before the situation gets out of hand.

7. **THAT** among the reasons for the non-appreciation of the system are; less appreciation of the principles of study by learners, limited follow up of lecturers on their students, expensive cost of study on the online platforms among others.

8. **THAT** she does not disqualify the ODeL system as a whole but rather it should only be used in exceptional circumstances where it is inevitable and necessary.

9. **THAT** the University administration on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2021 in its letter to College Principals, Deans of Schools, Academic Registrars and students, resolved and approved to use the same system as a general module of study in the academic year 2021/2022; **(the letter is hereto attached as Appendix B)**

10. **THAT** the President of the Republic of Uganda, in his update on **Covid 19 on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2021**, directed that all schools be opened and all scholars ranging from kindergarten to University go back to school.

11. **THAT** the University did not comply with this directive upon its unchanged position of having a blended system of learning in the academic year 2021/2022.

12. **THAT** Article 30 of the Constitution of Uganda as amended, provides for the right to education to all persons. It should be recalled that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land. The same is also reflected in **Ministry of Education and Sports** which is mandated to deliver quality and relevant education to all Ugandans.



**YOUR HUMBLE PETITIONER** contends:

**A. THAT** Article 30 of the Constitution of Uganda enjoins the University administration to provide quality education to all persons, the same being reflected in the mandate of the Ministry of Education and objectives of the Makerere University as an institution of Higher learning that supports research and innovation.

**B. THAT** although the University administration has the right to determine the module of study to be used in each academic year, it can only choose the ODeL system only where it is necessary.

**WHEREFORE** your humble petitioner brings this petition in public interest and representation of the rest of the students and humbly pray that the University administration revises its position and make the following declarations;

### **1. DECLARATIONS**

- a) **THAT** the University be fully opened in accordance with the laws of Uganda and presidential directives on lifting the strict COVID-19 measures.
- b) **THAT** the University procure and equip resources to stop the spread of Covid 19, through vaccination and observation of standard operating procedures (S.O.Ps). The sensitization and enforcement having been embarked on and launched by the Ministry of Health in the Students' Guild and the ad-hoc committee on health, both to operate in conjunction with each other as **the COVID 19 Task Force of the Students** to ensure strict enforcement of the standard operating procedures and vaccination of all students.

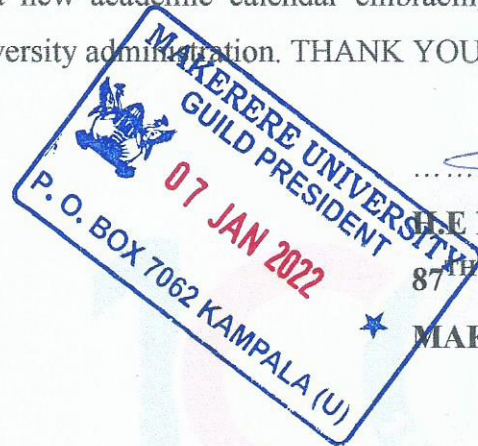
### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- i. **THAT** students can observe the S.O.Ps while at the same time the University is fully open and encourage the University administration to cooperate with the Health Committees formulated by the student leadership to ensure strict adherence to S.O.Ps.
- ii. **THAT** it is only prudent that we get back to normal as an institution of higher learning since the deadly virus has proved that it is not about to free us. This has been evidenced by the ever emerging variants of COVID-19.

iii. **THAT** it is not yet about time for the virus to leave us and yet we must keep not only moving but also moving to achieve the objective of providing quality education

**I THEREFORE**, on behalf of the students of Makerere University I request for an immediate communication from the University administration reversing the staggered system of learning in the semester calendar of the academic year 2021/2022, as it is unconstitutional, unnecessary, and detrimental to the academic credibility and potential of learners both during their exams and their future career callings.

**Additionally**, that a new academic calendar embracing full reopening of the University be designed by the University administration. **THANK YOU!**



SHAMIM NAMBASSA SHAMIM  
87<sup>TH</sup> GUILD PRESIDENT  
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

**Drawn by:**

Bbosa Edrine Price

Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs

The 87<sup>th</sup> Students' Guild

**CC: Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs)**

**Dean of Students**

**Academic Registrar**

**Director, Legal Affairs**

**The Guild Speaker**