

### **Response to Media Query: School of Physics and Chemistry**

The University has put in place the following mechanisms to assist students in their first year of study: we have rearranged the physics curriculum so that students can be exposed to the relevant material that will help them to understand Physics better; remedial tutorials are offered; supplemental instruction is also provided and there are peer tutors readily available to explain concepts, senior student tutors are trained to assist the first year students.

Academics in Physics assist by training teachers through the Advanced Certificate in Education (ACE) programme. The University in partnership with BHP Billiton offers a program to develop the physics and maths skills of teachers in the Northern Cape.

The male-female ratio is 65:35 in favour of males.

Any proposed extension to the degree programmes will require wider debate.

#### **Issued by:**

Professor Andrew Kindness

Dean and Head of School: Chemistry and Physics

University of KwaZulu-Natal