



Vice Chancellor's 2nd Circular

27 April 2014

Death of a Rhodes student

I wish to communicate certain information that has been established with respect to the tragic deaths of two people in Cullen Bowles Residence yesterday morning.

The Rhodes student who died was 21 year-old Ms Amanda Tweyi, a resident of Rosa Parks and a second year B.Sc student from King Williamstown. She was shot dead by a boyfriend, also from King Williamstown, with whom she had very recently ended her relationship.

This makes clear that this was not a case of some unknown person simply walking into a residence and killing a student. At the same time, it highlights the all too familiar and horrific incidence in South Africa of gender-based violence and challenges the University to extend and intensify its own efforts in addressing this scourge.

As has been indicated, the Vice-Chancellor has requested senior University officials to establish the facts related to the deaths. This includes the presence of Ms Tweyi's ex-boyfriend on the Rhodes campus and how he gained access to Cullen Bowles Residence. Whatever actions and intervention must follow need to be informed by the facts, the context in which the University functions and measured deliberation by the University community.

In the light of the tragic deaths, there is understandably media interest and commentary on the social media. We welcome the reporting of the tragic incident and the facts related to it. We also express our appreciation for the expressions of condolences.

The University will issue further updates as and when facts related to the deaths are established and are made available by the South African Police Services.