

Polytechnic of Namibia
c/o Mr. Tjama Tjivikua
13 Storch Street
Windhoek

Windhoek, 05.12.2003

International Students at the Polytechnic of Namibia

Dear Mr. Tjivikua,

We, Fabian Schulz and Uz Kretzschmar both currently Exchange Students at the Polytechnic of Namibia until next year, are writing this letter to firstly let you know that since we came to Namibia we both really enjoyed every single day of our stay here.

Our stay at the Polytechnic offers us the possibility to broaden our experiences. We came as guests and had a very warm welcome here. Everybody supported us during our first weeks in this totally new environment.

But unfortunately from November the 6th on, it appears to us that the situation totally changed. On that day, Martin ***** and Markus ***** both Exchange Students from Austria, violated Polytechnic's rules and were correspondingly expelled from the Student Hostel.

We both fiercely condemn what they did, but unfortunately we cannot change what happened!

From this day on, we both truly feel that things are not as easy for us anymore as they were used to be.

Since that we experienced several, but minor, situations that eventually made us to come to that conclusion.

But what happened yesterday and today, was more than unbelievable to us:

Fabian and me are the first International Exchange Students, staying longer at the Polytechnic than just for one Semester. Before we came and even throughout the year, we were told by Administration that it is possible for us to stay at the Campus during Recess. To do so our rooms are equipped with all the necessary equipment.

On the 24th of November we received a confirmation eMail that we are allowed to stay at the Campus over Recess to work on our projects.

But yesterday, Mr. Eugene Brown informed us verbally that we have to leave the Campus by today.

We are totally unprepared to do so! We feel that we are played around with. That is, in our opinion, not the way an International oriented Educational Institution should treat their guests from other parts of the world.

For both of us the time during Recess is essential to work on our projects. These projects were set up by the Polytechnic, in our cases by the IT Department, and are therefore no private projects. Our research and work towards an eLearning Platform as well as establishing Internet Access to Lecturer Notes will allow the Polytechnic once more to differentiate from other Educational Institutions.

In order for us to successfully finish our projects in time we need to stay on Campus, with access to our offices as well as with Internet access in Uz Kretzschmar's room which is already established.

Together with your support, we hope that we are able to overcome this unfortunate situation without any lasting damage concerning the future relationship between the Polytechnic of Namibia and their international Partner Universities.

As you can imagine, we both stay in close contact with our supervisors in Germany, who are already informed and who are also trying the best they can to help to find an appropriate solution for all of us.

We still think that a short meeting with you would be the best way to solve this quickly.

We are Looking forward to hearing from you!

Best Regards

Uz Kretzschmar

Fabian Schulz