

UCT VALUES

A STATEMENT OF VALUES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN AND ITS MEMBERS

The University is a community of scholars, teachers, students and staff. A community implies the shared acceptance by its members of common values. The concept of values implies not only rights but also obligations, for the community itself and for its individual members.

The Statement of Values provides a framework that informs and governs what is considered by the University community to be appropriate and acceptable behaviour. The Statement also serves as the foundation for a range of University policies and guides the management of particular aspects of University life.

As a community, the University commits itself, and aspects all its members, to exemplify and uphold these values and to reflect them not only in institutional and personal relationships, but also in all other aspects of University life, including work, sport, recreation, and cultural, intellectual, religious and other activities.

As a value-based community, we aspire to an encompassing ethos which:

- Promotes academic excellence and the attainment of the institutional goal of becoming a world-class African University.
- Preserves what is valuable in the history of the institution and of his country, and responds to the challenges posed by past injustices and unfair discrimination.
- Achieves social transformation, empowerment and participative governance.
- Affirms and protects the fundamental human rights enshrined in the Constitution.
- Encourages the institution and all its members to accept responsibility for the welfare of the community and for behaving in accordance with these community values.

VALUES

We commit ourselves to:

- Truth, fairness, consistency, and integrity in both academic and other work, and in all personal and institutional relationships.
- Compassion, generosity and concern for the needs and the aspirations of others, and in particular for the changes faced by less privileged in our society.
- Respect and tolerance for cultural, religious, political, and other differences and acknowledgement of the value of diversity in society.
- Respect for individual privacy, dignity, and the right to personal choice.
- Intellectual honesty, vigour in debate, openness to alternate ideas and respect for other views, beliefs and opinions.
- Commitment to high standards, personal fulfilment and the pursuit of excellence.
- The protection and responsible use of the University's assets and resources.
- Concern for the personal safety, health and welfare of all members of the community.
- The protection and conservation of the environment and natural resources.

ACTIONS

In the context of our recent history, we recognize the importance of affirming this ethos and promoting these shared values. Accordingly, we undertake collectively and individually:

- To promote and protect academic freedom.
- To oppose and take steps to prevent (,) racial, gender or other forms of unfair discrimination, harassment, violence or abuse.
- To actively promote social justice and equity.
- To nurture a culture of learning, which is supportive of students, scholars and teachers
- To refrain from speech or conduct (,) that demeans or humiliates others.
- To encourage our members to enjoy life; to laugh, to love, to appreciate and take full advantage of the wealth of opportunities available to us in academic endeavour, in making friends, and in social, cultural and sporting activity.
- To advance principle of open governance (,) and to be fully accountable for our actions, decisions, and the stewardship of the University's resources and mission.
- To nurture and empower our members.

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