

Dear stakeholders,

On Saturday 31st October, we received an extensive set of new demands from Fees Must Fall /Rhodes Must Fall. These related to financial exclusions, the interdict, police on campus, deferred exams, and more. The executive met the following day and a meeting with the students was arranged for Sunday evening, which lasted till 3am. Progress was made on identifying shared principles, as well as areas of disagreement. Both sides committed to reconvene to continue the discussions.

On Tuesday evening, 3 November 2015 we recommenced discussions, which continued through to Wednesday morning. Agreement was reached on proposals covering a wide range of issues. Since then we have been working on clarifying and refining a written version of the proposal. We will also share this proposal with all key stakeholders for comment. Where necessary, Council approval will be sought on particular items. We will consider such comments, and we are keen to sign this with the various student formations including the SRC as soon as possible. We are hoping that an indication of senior management's commitment to the terms of the proposal, even if we do not have final sign off by all stakeholders and Council, will encourage those student formations to commit to a disruption-free examination session.

Dr Max Price
Vice-Chancellor, University of Cape Town

University of Cape Town

Draft proposed agreement between students organisations/formations and UCT's executive

Dated 13h50 on 7 November 2015

1. No student on financial aid will be prevented from graduating or continuing their studies on the basis of affordability (any contraventions of this should be presented to Student Financial Aid Office (SFA)).
2. FeesMustFall will have a representative on the Student Financial Aid (SFA) appeals committee.
3. The registrar designate commits to reviewing identification on examination scripts by 31 March 2016.
4. There should be no penalty on students for missed submissions during the period 19 Oct – 1 November 2015. This means that faculties will either waive the DP requirement set for this period or allow any DP requirement that is not/cannot be waived, to be made up later.
5. Student activists may on an individual basis write motivations to the DVC's should they encounter problems with DPs.(Already approved by SEC on 2 November 2015).
6. UCT will act against any victimisation though marking of exams of students on the basis of their participation in protest activities.

7.Accountability for Management

- a. Trauma
- There will be free consultation at student wellness for 2016 and 2017 for all students directly affected by police presence and actions on campus, without compromising the treatment of existing student patients.

- b. Mediated sessions will be organized for members of the university community who feel traumatized by police presence and action on campus, and the consequences of protest activity. A task team comprising students from the mediation session and student reps from relevant organisations will be established to determine a plan of action with management to address student trauma.
- c. Management will support the full external investigation of SAPS conduct on UCT campus on the 19th and 20th October 2015 by Western Cape Police OMBUD Advocate Vusi Pikoli.
- d. Management will produce a public full report on the events of the 19th and 20th October including an account of the decision making process of senior management in addressing the protests to be submitted in the above investigation.
- e. Students and workers will be involved in developing the guidelines to deal with future protests, which will be submitted to Council for approval.
- f. Vice-Chancellor Max Price (on behalf of UCT executive) will propose to Universities South Africa at its next meeting that there should be a national inquiry into SAPS handling of and actions in relation to dealing with student/worker protests. The VC will receive submissions from FMF to take to the meeting.

8. Student Wellness and counselling services

No student should be denied assistance from counselling services. The fees for such counselling services for students on financial aid are waived. A report on costing will be drawn up for realising free counselling services for all. In collaboration with student activists, UCT undertakes to raise funds both internally and externally, and to draw on volunteer and NGO professional resources internally and externally, to achieve free counselling services for all.

9. Debt/Financially excluded financial aid students

UCT management makes the following statement in regard to historical debt and financial exclusion:

We are committed to the principle of redress because of the legacy of colonialism and apartheid and we are committed to finding mechanisms to address the debt of those previously financially excluded, the majority of whom are black. This has left a legacy of black pain, for which UCT apologises.

- a. Previously financially excluded students, who are academically eligible, will be prioritised for residence allocation upon returning to the university, whether or not their fees have been cleared. There may be practical constraints in 2016.
- b. The NBT fees for students who are admitted to UCT and are recipients of NSFAS or UCT financial aid will be covered by their financial aid (fully refunded). Management undertakes to engage with other bursary-givers to lobby them to cover this cost for students they fund.
- c.
 - i) The application fee for students who are admitted to UCT and are recipients of NSFAS or UCT financial aid will be covered by their financial aid. Management undertakes to engage with other bursary-givers to lobby them to cover this cost for students they fund.
 - ii) It will be stated on the application form that those who cannot afford the application fee do not have to pay it.
- d. Students who can motivate good cause for late registration will have the late registration fee waived. The registrar designate undertakes to investigate this and release a statement explaining the rationale for the late registration fee and tentative solutions for resolving any

- bias against students who are disadvantaged by this fee. These policies will be reviewed with student input.
- e. All degrees withheld because of outstanding fees from students who were on financial aid, will be released with immediate effect.
 - f. As an overriding principle UCT wishes to enable students who start their degrees and are academically eligible, to continue studying. Students who were excluded for financial reasons in the past will be considered for readmission. UCT financial aid will examine a range of cases of past financial exclusion in order to consider what the implications and costs would be of readmitting such students and where possible allow these students to reregister beginning in 2016.
 - g. Management will issue a full report on the extent of student debt at UCT and in particular debt of black students. The report will be compiled by the ED: Finance and reviewed by the Finance Committee.
 - h. Management supports in principle the clearing of all historical debt owed to UCT by financially excluded financial aid students and will investigate ways of achieving this. This investigation will be led by the ED: Finance and reviewed by the finance committee with recommendation to Council.
 - i. All UCT students who are children of UCT outsourced workers who have paid more than 25% fees will be informed of the rebate policy and fully refunded where the policy was not applied. In addition, since the remaining 25% would normally be covered by financial aid, this amount will also be reimbursed if it was not covered.

10. Third party food/retail vendors

- a. With regard to the issues surrounding third party food/retail vendors, UCT has agreed to develop a framework for contracts of this nature which will include aspects of the Code of Conduct. This framework will form the basis of standardising the contracts of these food/retail vendors, ensuring compliance with the BCEA, LRA and fair treatment of their workers.

11. Representations to NSFAS

The signatory organisations/formations will be involved in appointing a representative to collaborate and lobby student issues with NSFAS. That representative will be accountable to the signatory organisations/formations through report back.

12. Examination Costs for the January 2016 examinations

- a) No students living in residences who are eligible for financial aid will incur additional residence *accommodation* costs due to the delayed exam periods.
- b) Students will not incur examination costs for deferred or supplementary exams.
- c) UCT will use best endeavours to reduce residence food costs and food prices for all financial aid students writing in January (those residing in residences and off campus) to the minimum. At least R40 per day will be provided towards these charges. There will be no double charges for any student.
- d) The Leave of Absence policy will be reviewed and possibly revised at senate level with the consultation of the signatory student organisations/formations, faculties and all other stakeholders who have an interest in mental health and disability.
 - Mental illness will be treated with the same seriousness and concern as physical illness.
 - There will be a commitment to recognizing the mental health consequences of alienation, for example black intersectional pain.

13. Examination Period

- a. There will be two examination periods for students, the first starting 10th November and the second in January 2016.
- b. The November exam timetable must remain the same, starting on a Tuesday and ending on Friday.
- c. No exams are to be scheduled for weekends..
- d. The question of stipends for financially eligible students for the exam period in January 2016 is under consideration.
- e. A total of 611 students have elected to defer block exams to January. An as yet unknown number will seek to defer one or more exams to January 2015. The Deans have agreed to ensure that where a January examinee achieves a result that might have led to a supp (in faculties where supps may be awarded) she/he/they will be given some form of additional assessment (an oral or a written test) to determine whether the candidate should pass or fail. Students will be advised of these alternative modes of assessment and of supplementary exams where these are feasible..

14. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- a. DISCHO needs to become an effective office and take on the role of continuous sensitization workshops for staff and students on issues including but not limited to gender-based violence, racism, transphobia, homophobia, ableism and patriarchy. HAICU currently has these kinds of interventions available and resources need to be given to DISCHO to extend their scope and reach.
- b. These services are currently under review, following which the scopes and activities of these bodies will be relooked at. The DVC for transformation undertakes to keep the signatory organisations/formations updated on the progress of the review.
- c. The reviews of DISCHO and the Transformation Services Office (including HAICU) that are submitted to Council will subsequently be made public within UCT.
- d. Management will develop a plan to address the issues brought up in the review. and will appoint a task team to oversee the implementation of the recommendations to deal with the issues brought up in the review and future issues raised by students. This team should include student representatives from the signatory organisations/formations.

15. DISABILITY

Management commits to the principle of equity of access and justice with regards to students with disabilities. Management commits that all students with disabilities are provided with a learning environment in which they can fulfil their full potential. To the extent that UCT is presently failing to do this, management commits to upgrading these services accordingly.

- a. Management commits to a review of the universal access policy for people with disabilities.
- b. Management commits to a review of the disability unit.
- c. The DVC of Transformation undertakes to communicate the progress of the aforementioned reviews regularly to Ikey Ability and other stakeholders.
- d. The Vice Chancellor commits to meeting with Ikey Ability on 15 January 2016, or a date to be mutually agreed.

16. NON-NSFAS FUNDING

- a. UCT agrees to ensure that its relationships with external sponsors and bursars will be transparent.
- b. UCT management commits to appeal to external bursars to reinstate student funding that was lost because of the protest action. The signatory organisation/s/formations committee to bringing all such cases to the attention of the Student Financial Aid Office..

COMMITMENT TO RETURN TO SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

17. The executive and the signatory organisations individually and collectively commit themselves and their organisations/formations to ensuring that the University’s academic project and in particular this year’s examinations continue as now scheduled, and that we will co-operate in measures to ensure this.

Signed by the members of The Vice-Chancellor’s team on behalf of the University’s executive and maangement

- Max Price
- Anwar Mall
- Royston Pillay
- Russell Ally
- Moonira Kahn
- Andre Theys
- Ashley Francis
- Miriam Hoosain

Signed on behalf of FeesMusrFall/RhodesMustFall

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Signed on behalf of the 2015/2016 Students' Representative Council

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