

Motion 1

Brought forward by: Neville Rubin¹

Seconded by: C.J. Driver²

Received: 1 December 2016

These meetings of members of UCT Convocation and the UCT Alumni Association

NOTING:

- The formal status of Convocation as a constituent of UCT;
- The role of Convocation and the many graduates of UCT who were active over several decades in the campaigns against the application of apartheid to and in SA universities;
- The concern of UCT Alumni at the unfolding of events within UCT over the last two years;

and the response of the UCT authorities to them,

EXPRESSES the hope that there will be:

- efforts on the part of those responsible to provide suitable opportunities in the future for consultation by the appropriate University authorities with as many as possible of the membership of both bodies here present on issues being addressed by those authorities;
- at the instigation of other representative entities within the University complex;
- or in order to explain the choice of any other interlocutors.

Any contact attempted along those lines should include:

- invitations to contribute suggestions and offer assistance for use, including on –
 - the subjects under discussion,
 - participants in discussions,
 - financial issues,
- reports on the progress of any discussions that have been, or are to be, undertaken, with as much substantive detail relating to proposals put forward by those variously involved and the

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² BA in 1960, BA Hons. 1962, B.Ed. 1962, M.Phil (Oxon), 1965. His subsequent career at UCT included: Secretary of the SRC, Editor of Varsity and of Groote Schuur, and later President of NUSAS 1963-1964, as well as the headships of several Schools in England (Berkhamstead and Wellington College; and the Island School in Hong Kong). He has published 5 novels and several books of verse.

manner in which any of these

- have been, or
- may be, or
- might be implemented, as well as
- the individuals who have been or are to be designated for the purpose(s) of so doing

Motion 2

Brought forward by: Sabakhe Mahlangu

Seconded by: To be advised

Received: 2 December 2016

The Alumni constitution as it stands does not get reviewed regularly leading/ risking it being outmoded in some areas which may impact on the functioning of the organisation therefore leading to constitutional crises. Secondly, the constitution itself does not provide a mechanism and process of its own review.

Review of the constitution

I therefore I table a motion that “The constitution need to be reviewed periodically to ensure that it is up to date and relevant all the times. The constitution should itself should provide for its own review, the process and period of its review.

Motion 3

Brought forward by: Sabakhe Mahlangu

Seconded by: To be advised

Received: 2 December 2016

In certain instances the constitutional provisions are not followed for some reasons. This creates a problem and might continue to do so in the future.

I move to table a motion that the AGM discuss this and provide guidelines on how this should be dealt with. Further that such guidelines be amended to the constitution.

Motion 4

Brought forward by: Keith Gottschalk

Seconded by: Sally Cristini (née Andrews)

Received: 20 November 2016

The nationwide #Rhodes must fall & # Fees must fall movements, and the protests that followed over two years, have been the biggest campus events of their sort since we became a democracy. After a tiny fringe amongst the protesters escalated actions to smashing glass and arson, opinions became severely polarized on both sides. Especially on digital media, rhetorical abuse became frequent from both sides, until the social media could more accurately be dubbed anti-social media.

The toughest test of leadership is to have to make repeated judgment calls on the spot during protracted and violent crises. If you fear to make mistakes, you will be paralysed from any decisions at all. We consider that the UCT senior executive team got it right most of the time, and performed as well as anyone else could have managed.

Currently, UCT and other disrupted universities have a police contingent on their main campuses, plus as much private security guards as they can afford to hire. Sometimes, more private security than they can afford over the long run. This is what hardliners amongst some alumni have called for from the start. The universities now inevitably have this to protect persons and property. But it has come, with its inevitable downside which UCT (and Wits) leaders anticipated all along, and which made them decide that this was a last resort, only after all other strategies did not produce the needed results.

Even significant police presence has only succeeded in arresting some of the arsonists. But only a few thousand out of South Africa's almost 180 000 police officers have ever benefited from re-training for crowd control and riot policing methods compatible with democracy. At Wits, police fired thirteen rubber bullets at point blank range into the back of a woman SRC president. The chair of the UCT AAB witnessed police outside Bremner Building fire stun grenades into the middle of a crowd of protesters. At both UCT and other universities, there still are a small minority of staff and students calling for police to be withdrawn from campus.

This shows the wisdom of the UCT executive strategy of leading over backward to negotiate as far as possible as long as possible. So that when calling in the police & private guards became inevitable, UCT carried the biggest possible majority of staff and student opinion with them. The consequences of more authoritarian options are still within living memory on and off South Africa's campuses. UCT leadership has the responsibility of moving campus to a post-conflict resolution as speedily as possible. Moving traumatized individuals on both sides to again cooperate in a learning community is also a responsibility of leadership.

There will undoubtedly still be challenges ahead during 2017, and not only at UCT. The UCT Alumni Advisory Board recommends:

First, because so much of the rhetorical abuse from both sides was aimed personally at denigrating Max Price, we urge UCT to get all future statements on the conflict co-signed by ALL members of the Senior Executive team. Knowing that key decisions and choices were not made by a one man

autocrat, but were considered by a team of veteran UCT leaders, will defang some of the venom in print and online.

Secondly, we call on all alumni to join their local alumni chapter, to both engage with UCT leaders, and to support the latest generation of professionals and managers which UCT is graduating. The future of UCT depends partially on support from its alumni and the broader public, even more during the stresses of transformation than in more tranquil phases. UCT was, and is, South Africa and the continent's leading university. Recently, Yale alumni told us that UCT has won international admiration for the last two decades of achievements in colour, gender, and curricula transformation. Your help in all possible ways is needed during the years ahead.