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**UCT to assess minister's recommendations on university fees  
Please cite Dr Max Price, Vice-Chancellor, UCT**

The University of Cape Town has noted the recommendations on university fees made today by Higher Education Minister Dr Blade Nzimande.

UCT will now proceed with its own processes with internal stakeholders, including the Student Representative Council, to prepare recommendations for Council regarding fees and financial aid support for 2017.

UCT appreciates the minister's commitment that government will cover the full 8% increment that is needed in lieu of fees from students on the National Student Financial Aid Scheme and in middle-income households, i.e. those with annual household incomes of up to R600,000.

Although UCT has long raised funds to support these middle-income students, this is the first time that government has allocated funding to this group, thus recognising its responsibility to ensure affordability for this group too. This funding will enable the universities to consider a fee and bursary regime that avoids increasing the costs of higher education for all students with an annual household income of up to R600,000.

While the effect of this announcement is to ensure that university and technical and vocational education and training education becomes more affordable for middle-class families (since the fees are dropping in real terms), it is still the case that many middle-class households cannot afford the total cost of study, including fees, accommodation, food, books, etc.

We appreciate that the minister is trying to deal with the immediate issues of fee increases for 2017 and not the larger funding issues that face higher education. We hope that the Heher Commission will go much further in dealing with the issue of appropriate funding for higher education, to ensure it becomes readily affordable for all poor, lower- and middle-income households.

**ENDS**

**Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department**

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