

Internal communication to UCT stakeholders/Media release

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STATEMENT BY THE INSTITUTIONAL RECONCILIATION AND TRANSFORMATION COMMISSION (IRTC) - University of Cape Town

Issued by the Chairperson of the IRCT, Mr Mosibudi Mangena

CAPE TOWN:

The Institutional Reconciliation and Transformation Commission (IRTC), appointed by a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee of the University of Cape Town (UCT) after violent student protests, had its first formal meeting today.

The commission and steering committee made up of 16 constituencies within UCT met on campus to get the Commission's work underway.

The Commission invited individual and constituent bodies to make initial submissions of not more than four pages to its Secretariat by e-mail to: candice.amon@uct.ac.za by 9 March 2018. Hearings of the Commission will begin thereafter.

The meeting heard that there was urgency with UCT's upcoming graduation ceremony as some of the graduates had been the subject of disciplinary action, charges and clemency. The Commission will start with matters of amnesty and clemency and will then deal with reconciliation and transformation.

Chaired by former Minister of Science and Technology, Mr Mosibudi Mangena, the commission consists of retired Constitutional Court Judge Zakeria Yacoob, Dr Yvette Abrahams, a climate change researcher and former Commissioner for Gender Equality, Dr Malose Langa, senior lecturer in Psychology at the University of the Witwatersrand, and Ms Yasmin Sooka, a former Commissioner of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Executive Director of the Foundation of Human Rights in South Africa.

The provisional Terms of Reference drafted by UCT's Steering Committee, but which that IRCT may refine and amend, will look into what is referred to as the 'Shackville protests' of February 2016, including any related and subsequent protest action; invite submissions from all constituencies on the clemencies granted and make recommendations on converting clemencies into amnesties (or the continuation of clemencies) and what the nature of these amnesties will be; and make recommendations on how to deal with the outstanding cases in the spirit of restorative justice; and inform itself on all recent and ongoing initiatives to address the issues that fall within the broad scope of the IRTC.

According to the provisional terms of reference, the Commission will also invite all constituencies – and be able to request relevant individuals and structures, including task teams – to make submissions on institutional culture and practices, including decolonisation and any that entail unjust discrimination, domination or violence, including sexual violence. It will make recommendations on institutional culture, transformation, decolonisation, discrimination, identity, disability, labour relations and any other matters that the university community has raised over the years, or may wish to raise.

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