

AU Executive response to the disruption of a Special Senate Meeting held on the 9th November 2015

The UCT Academics Union Executive is dismayed to learn about the disruption of a Special Senate Meeting held in the Kramer Building on the 9th of November 2015. We strongly condemn the associated events, in particular the harassment, violence and accusations of racism levelled against members of the Senate. These acts of violence are unjustified and contrary to the openness of debate that we seek to promote at UCT, and in society more generally. Those responsible for these acts have crossed the line of acceptable protest and behaviour in a democratic society. The AU Executive calls for consequences for the people involved and supports the institution of necessary disciplinary measures.

In issuing this statement, we reaffirm our commitment to the following principles:

1. A commitment for staff and students to work in a safe environment without fear of violence, intimidation and victimisation
2. A commitment to freedom of association and freedom of debate
3. A commitment to freedom from all forms of discrimination
4. A commitment to peaceful protest while respecting the rights of others
5. A commitment to continuing negotiations in support of insourcing and fair fees ratios
6. A commitment to accountability on the part of staff, students and management