

Dear colleagues,

Let me start by thanking you for your attendance and participation in the Faculty dialogue with the Vice Chancellor this morning. In my view the meeting was immensely useful for addressing some of the questions that members of the Faculty have been having since the start of the student protests three weeks ago.

The reason I am writing to you is to report on events that unfolded at the emergency Senate meeting this afternoon. Soon after the meeting started a group of students (I'm not sure whether there were non-students among them) stormed the venue (Kramer LT2) and disrupted the meeting. Some of them surrounded the Vice Chancellor and started screaming at him. Water, water bottles and other objects were thrown at Senate members and members of the Executives. The leaders of the group verbally abused the Vice Chancellor and some in the group threw water and full water bottles directly at Dr Price. They followed him outside and continued with the threats and verbal abuse.

I'm sure other details will be communicated to members of the University. But I wanted to brief members of the Faculty directly and to put on record my disgust at the unruly behaviour of this group. Any form of protest that descends into verbal and physical abuse has no place in our institution and deserves condemnation by all members of the University community.

On behalf of the Faculty of Humanities I wish to express my full support for the Vice Chancellor in his endeavours to find resolution to the complex situation facing UCT. I also hope that those responsible will face steps in terms of the University's disciplinary processes.

Best regards,

Sakhela Buhlungu