

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

To: The Members of the Senate

Senate motion as adopted at the meeting on 24 October 2016

Dear members of Senate,

Below please find the final version of the motion as adopted by Senate at its meeting on 24 October 2016:

Violent events on campus over the last few days clearly show that the plan as communicated by the Vice-Chancellor in his VC Desk of Saturday 15 October to complete the 2016 academic programme is in peril. The UCT campuses need to be urgently stabilized in order to protect the legitimacy of protest, to give the negotiation process a chance to succeed, and to allow staff and students to complete the academic year in an environment which does not place people and property at risk.

Under the current extraordinary circumstances, we propose that Senate adopts the following motion to increase the probability of the successful completion of the 2016 academic year. We recognise that adoption of this motion does not guarantee that peace is restored to UCT campuses, but does lay down the boundaries of what is regarded as legitimate and peaceful protest:

Noting the foundational role of the rule of law in the Constitution, that the right of assembly extends only to peaceful and unarmed gatherings, and that the right of free expression does not include hate speech, Senate condemns without qualification the many acts of violence which have occurred on campus since the Senate last met, by whomsoever has done so, including the physical assault on the Vice-Chancellor on 14 October, which is regarded as an assault on the institution itself. Against this background, Senate resolves to request the VC (advised by the DVCs and after consultation with the Deans and other members of the Senior Leadership Group, and after listening to representation by students on this matter) to define clearly what the University leadership regards as the limits of legitimate protest and of the appropriate conduct of security services on UCT campuses, to publish this definition, and to relate it to existing rules on conduct (the RCS rules).