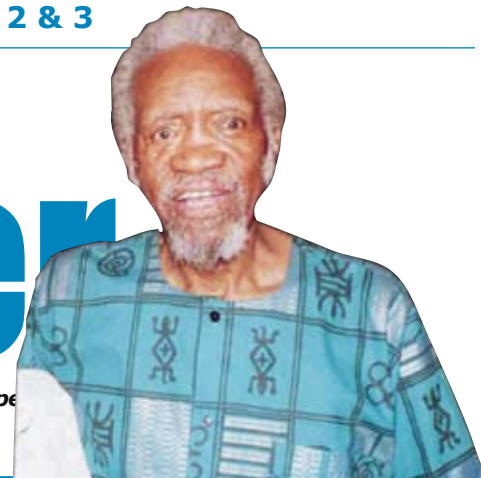


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VC shares vision for UCT

In his vision for UCT Dr Max Price targets freedom of debate, transformation, Afropolitanism, UCT's role in South Africa and Africa, HIV and TB, and the "failing" education system



New chapter: Chancellor Mrs Graça Machel invests Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price with his robe of office at his installation in Jameson Hall.

HELEN THÉRON

Setting the tone for his term as Vice-Chancellor in his installation address on Tuesday, 19 August, Dr Max Price mooted the creation of pro-vice-chancellors to lead intellectual projects of national importance.

These would include safety and security projects.

In this regard, a pro-vice-chancellor would ensure that "... UCT brings all its intellectual resources to bear on the problem of violent crime and the threat it poses to our survival".

Price was installed as UCT's ninth Vice-Chancellor in the Jameson Hall, in a ceremony attended by Minister of Education Naledi Pandor and Chancellor Graça Machel, and graced by the musical and choral offerings of UCT's South African College of Music.

In his address, Price also provided a clear indication of his leadership style.

"Transformative leaders value diversity, build self esteem, nurture talent, mentor, listen and respect, along with the leadership they provide."

Speaking on the pomp and ceremony of the occasion, Price noted that they harked back to an earlier idea of a university as "a space of ideas, critique and the pursuit of truth".

"It means that a university requires that people respect each other and give them the benefit of the doubt that all are equally committed to seeking truth."

He committed UCT to promoting democracy by providing a highly skilled workforce educated in "thoughtful citizenry".

"This is the basis upon which UCT makes its most profound contribution to the development and transformation of our society."

Price spoke of his vision of UCT as an Afropolitan university.

"The 'Afro' element connotes an open, assertive engagement with the world from the standpoint of Africa. It describes a growth in African studies, particularly the economic sociologies of different African countries and regions. 'Politan' suggests cosmopolitan, and signals firstly a sophisticated and future-oriented approach to understanding Africa, as opposed to a sentimental, naïve, often 'rural peasant and wildlife' view of what an African perspective is.

"Secondly, UCT will be cosmopolitan in the sense of the mix of staff and students, from Africa, Latin America, Asia and from the North."

UCT should replace SOAS in political studies, Oxford's Queen Elizabeth House in African government and post-colonialism, Johns Hopkins in public health, and Harvard's Kennedy School and Columbia in executive education and public administration "as it is understood for Africa", noted Price.

"To be a global university, UCT needs to be an African university.

In her congratulatory message, Minister of Education Naledi Pandor said: "We have been working at home and abroad with the African Diaspora initiative in an attempt to encourage African scholars to work with African institutions in expanding research and development. Working together with the DST and other departments, we are creating conditions for real partnerships."

Price said UCT also had a responsibility to tackle four pressing national issues: threats to democracy and constitutionalism; HIV/AIDS and TB; violent crime; and a public school system that had "failed the country and the universities".

"Previously we took the view that this was not our problem to fix. We can no longer ignore it for it will be our downfall. We will do our share."

Digressing from her prepared speech, Minister Pandor's response was to the point. "We are going to have interesting times with Dr Max Price in higher education." **MP**

1968, how and why

Some members of the original sit-in group returned to UCT to remember the events of 1968

The story is a familiar one by now.

In 1968, UCT Council approved the appointment of one Archie Mafeje, a UCT and Cambridge graduate, as senior lecturer in the Department of Social Anthropology.

It was a bold move on the Council's part, as universities at that time were not allowed to appoint black academics in any field other than African languages. The Minister of Education got word of the appointment, however, and – holding the university purse strings – strong-armed Council into withdrawing the offer to Mafeje.

It was bare-faced blackmail on the state's part, and was a stain on UCT reputation, says Dr Ken Hughes of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, who took part in the sit-in.

"It's never a good thing to give in to a blackmailer," said Hughes at the recent symposium hosted by the Academic Freedom Committee (AFC). "In a hostage situation, nobody's hands stay clean."

Council's about-face amounted to an act of "collusion between the apartheid state and the University of Cape Town," commented Professor Fred Hendricks of Rhodes University at the AFC symposium.

Within days, following a mass meeting, some 600 students occupied Senate Room, intending, recalls Duncan Innes, president of the 1967/68 Students' Representative Council (SRC), to linger no more than a few hours.

They stayed for nine days (although student numbers dropped off each day). Security Police kept an eye on students from day one; occasionally infiltrating the group, it was discovered later.

Staff and other universities joined in the protests, among them Rhodes, Wits and Natal.

Prime Minister BJ Vorster was not amused.

"The Government and I will not tolerate this," he is quoted in one source. "I want to make use of this opportunity to tell the councils of the universities concerned: I will give you a reasonable time for solving the things going on at the Universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand yourselves, but if you do not do it, I will do it thoroughly and effectively."

At Bremner, pressure mounted on the students, primarily from the state and the police, who had been joined by students from the University of Stellenbosch. After Vorster's threat to send in "his boys", many felt it was time to bring the sit-in to a halt.

"We realised we were up against the machinery of the entire apartheid state," says Innes.

Last week, some 60 members of the sit-in group assembled in the self-same Senate Room to recall and evaluate the event.

Innes concedes that the sit-in failed to reach its main objectives – to get Council to join them in



Then and now: Some of the students who staged the 1968 sit-in marched on Bremner again last week.

their protest against the attack on academic freedom by the state, and to get Mafeje appointed.

"But what we did was make it clear to UCT and other universities around the country that they couldn't make a deal with the government, because then they would face opposition from students. We made it clear that Mafeje would not be forgotten, and the incident would be forever linked to the denial of academic freedom."

There were more personal consequences. Some of the students went on to join other, bigger, protest movements.

"For many of us it was a transformative process." **MP**



Good old days: Graduates Stan Kahn and Duncan Innes, here at the SRC offices, spot themselves in a picture taken during the 1960s.

Plaque will commemorate renaming of Senate Room



Remembering: Xolani Mafeje, son of the late Prof Archie Mafeje, and Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price unveil the plaque that will adorn the newly named Archie Mafeje Room, formerly the Senate Room, in Bremner Building.

HELEN THÉRON

A plaque was unveiled by Xolani Mafeje, son of the late Professor Archie Mafeje, at a symposium in the Kramer Law Building last Monday night. It will be installed at the old Senate Room, which will be renamed the Archie Mafeje Room.

The symposium, Lessons of the Mafeje Affair, was hosted by the Academic Freedom Committee to mark 40 years since UCT appointed and then withdrew the appointment of Mafeje as senior lecturer in social anthropology.

The event drew wide protest and became a blot on the university's record of academic freedom. Some 1 000 UCT students and staff staged a nine-day sit-in in the Senate Room to protest Council's decision.

Students who participated in the sit-in gathered at UCT to commemorate the event this past weekend.

The symposium was part of Vice-

Chancellor Dr Max Price's installation programme.

Chaired by UCT's Andrew Nash, associate professor in the Department of Political Studies, it featured speakers Professor Fred Hendricks of Rhodes University, UCT Professors Ken Hughes and Lungisile Ntsebeza, and Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson. (Members of Mafeje's family, pictured below, also attended.)

According to Hendricks, UCT Council's decision to withdraw Mafeje's appointment amounted to "collusion between the apartheid state and the University of Cape Town".

UCT, said Hughes, was "black-mailed" by the government, but UCT's bowing to demands had cost the university. "In a hostage situation, nobody's hands stay clean."

In turn, Ntsebeza outlined some of the "flawed" selection processes that saw Mafeje's application for appointment in the 1990s rejected.

It was this, and other events in the

1990s, that lie at the heart of Mafeje's resentment towards UCT, suggested Ntsebeza. The later offer of an honorary doctorate was perhaps "too little, too late".

Wilson said it was "totally unacceptable" for the university Council to have buckled to government's veiled threats concerning Mafeje's appointment. In doing the government's dirty work, the Council had contaminated itself, he said.

More serious was the damage done by not having Mafeje teaching, writing and researching at UCT "for 10, 20, 30, even 40 years".

"[The incident] showed how isolated South Africa has been - and still is - from the rest of Africa. In the social sciences, for example, the debates in which Archie Mafeje was so vigorously engaged all across the continent, from Dar es Salaam to Cairo, to Dakar, to Harare, have not really been worked through adequately by the South African universities."



Rebuilding bridges: Assoc Prof Lungisile Ntsebeza (UCT), Dorothy Nomabhele, Prof Shahida El-Baz, Duncan Innes (part of 1968 sit-in group), Lumko Nkanyuza-Mafeje, Marshall Swana, Nandipha Mafeje, Lungisa Nkanyuza-Mafeje, VC Dr Max Price, Mlamli Mzwandile, Nomfundo Noruwana, Xolani Mafeje and Constance Swana. Not in picture is his daughter Dana Mafeje.

SPEAKERS



Assoc Prof Andrew Nash, AFC chair: "There are really two histories of academic freedom at UCT. The first and most conspicuous of them concerns the relationship between the state and the university, with the state cast as the threatening Goliath and the university as the plucky David, armed only with the slingshot of truth. The second history concerns relationships within the university itself, where the shared values of community are pitted against the managerial needs of efficiency, excellence, cost accounting and the like. It's not a David-and-Goliath story. We could say that Goliath is David's manager."

1968 episode, that can help us understand Mafeje's behaviour in 2003 [when he ignored UCT's offer of an honorary degree and



an apology]. It appears from archival records that in 1990 Mafeje made investigations through a friend about the possibility of returning to UCT. This matter was not taken up with the leadership at UCT."



Dr Ken Hughes, UCT: "It's never a good thing to give in to a blackmailer. In a hostage situation, nobody's hands stay clean."



Prof Fred Hendricks, Rhodes University: "What emerges is a very ugly picture of duplicity on the part of UCT because they were desperate to project an image of autonomy at exactly the time when they were responsible for its wholesale denial. The university relinquished its autonomy with not even a whimper of protest besides the ritualised claim of protest. In fact, the thin veneer of liberal protest attempted to hide the ugly side of UCT's racist practices."



Emeritus Professor Francis Wilson: Lessons from the Mafeje Affair – "Lesson 2: The Council gained nothing by giving in; nobody ever made clear what terrible thing it averted. But it contaminated itself. Lesson 3: The huge damage of not having had Archie Mafeje teaching, writing, researching at UCT for 10, 20, 30, even 40 years."

Assoc Prof Lungisile Ntsebeza, UCT: "My argument is that it is the events in the 1990s, more than the

African, Global

vision and hope for the university to a broad community of scholars, staff, students, alumni, donors, VIPs and guests. I'll be speaking at the ceremony, which will be broadcasted from his full address



we have not begun to answer the question posed by President Mbeki: "Why is our society so violent?"

We do not have a thorough answer to the policy question: "Should we have more jails?" We do not understand how to challenge the deeply ingrained views that violence is the way to resolve conflict – views inculcated in children from birth as they grow up witnessing domestic violence around them or bullying on the school playground.

We don't seem to have a clue how to tackle the drugs problem. We have not asked those politically incorrect questions, considered heretical in polite, liberal circles such as those that exist at UCT, questions such as: "Is our constitution too concerned about individual rights for this society?"

On the creation of pro-vice-chancellors:

Most of the senior executive posts are largely administrative – they manage processes, rather than giving intellectual direction. I want to change that. I propose appointing pro-vice-chancellors to lead and co-ordinate some of the university's important intellectual projects, and the first of these will be to do with crime, safety and security.

The pro-vice-chancellor will be responsible for being the interface between the university and all outside bodies concerned with these problems. She will be the conduit for raising the fi-

nances required to address the problems in a more sustained way.

She will audit and co-ordinate the efforts of academics internally, and ensure that gaps are identified and filled, and that UCT brings all its intellectual resources to bear on the problem of violent crime and the threat it poses to our survival.

On the school system:

The fourth threat is the public school system, which has failed the country and the universities. We cannot expand our intake of black students because of the paucity of school-leavers with the right subjects at the right level. Previously we took the view that this was not our problem to fix. We can no longer ignore it, for it will be our downfall. The University of Cape Town, and indeed all universities, should, in my opinion, tackle this problem. We will do our share.

On thanks:

I want to pay a special tribute to my wife, Deborah Posel, for helping me become who I am, for her ideas and articulate style, and most of all for her love. Thank you Deborah.

I want to thank my daughter Jessica and son Ilan, my mother and late father, and my wonderful friends.

[Thanks] to the colleagues who have been so supportive, and not badgered me about the 400 unread emails.

Africa. Democracy is breaking out all over the continent, accompanied by unprecedented rates of economic growth, foreign investment and international trade, as well as the concomitant problems of corporate and public governance, bottlenecks in infrastructure, education, health, management capacity, etc. South African companies are the major business partners in Africa. Our graduates will work in those companies. We have not addressed how we should prepare them for those tasks nor what role we could be playing to equip people from all over the world who need to engage with the continent in public or private projects.

On UCT being an Afropolitan university:

I have tried to capture this vision through the idea of UCT becoming an 'Afropolitan' university. The 'Afro' element connotes an open, assertive engagement with the world from the standpoint of Africa. It describes a growth in African studies, particularly the economic sociologies of different African countries and regions.

Businesses, governments and NGOs all over the world will know that if you want to understand Africa and how to operate here, you must go to UCT. 'Politan' suggests cosmopolitan, and signals firstly a sophisticated and future-oriented approach to understanding Africa, as opposed to a sentimental, naïve, often 'rural peasant and wildlife' view of what an African perspective is.

On attracting staff and students:

If UCT is to retain its top staff, if it is to attract the best students and academics from around the world, it will not be through higher salaries or better scholarships. It will have to offer something unique that makes this southern point of the continent a preferred place to study and research.

Academics and others from around the world will know, in 2012, that if you want to understand Africa, you must come to UCT. Because the substantive academic research, teaching and debate about Africa happens here, and because you will meet the rest of Africa in our seminar rooms and coffee shops. And you will also find Brazilian, Chinese

and Malaysian scholars here, part of a hub of the global academic community.

To be a global university, UCT needs to be an African university.

On threats to South Africa:

The first I have already addressed – that is the threat to our fragile democracy and constitutionalism. The second is HIV/AIDS and TB. Friends, the greatest public health disaster of our time will be our undoing if we do not make it a top priority. In this regard I do believe that UCT is making a significant contribution, through fundamental and applied research, through training professionals, through curricula (though I commit us to doing more in the faculties that have not yet integrated this sufficiently), through outreach and caring in communities, through policy and advocacy.

On safety and security:

The third fatal threat is crime, particularly violent crime. Here I do not believe the university has been making a sufficient and coherent contribution. There are many fragmented efforts, but



Price talks issues

Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price held a number of meetings on 20 August with staff and students around UCT campuses to discuss issues raised in his installation address

The meaning of being a university in a democratic country, the labelling of people in debate as either racists or affirmative action candidates, and the failings of the current education system were just some of the topics Price raised.

At the series of meetings, titled *Campus Conversations with the Vice-Chancellor*, staff and students took the opportunity to respond and raise a few points of their own.

First stop was Hiddingh Campus, where attendees raised issues such as gender equality and sexual harassment, funding for special events and the raising of fees, and the need to attract a greater diversity of international students (although, as is desired, UCT would remain a popular destination for semester students from the US and Europe). The ongoing concern of the availability of digital storage facilities and adequate bandwidth was also discussed. There was consensus that Hiddingh Campus suffered from inferior network and internet access, in comparison to the rest of UCT, because of its location on the “other side” of Table Mountain.

One attendee also questioned the roles of the Development and Alumni Department and the Centre for Higher Education and Development.

Feedback at the Graduate School of Business touched on the sensitive issue of the “independence” of the school, and its profitability. Another major concern was the Department of Home Affairs’ refusal to issue study permits to foreign students who already have work permits – an issue which some feel has had a negative impact on the GSB.

UCT’s growth was also discussed, with some commenting that the university is not sufficiently equipped to deal with part-time students. Price noted that although growth is certainly a goal, the university is limited in the extent it can grow under current circumstances without spreading itself too thinly.

The issue of the “rift” between academics and PASS staff came up – not too surprisingly – at an afternoon meeting with the two groups.

Price also spoke of the value and his own experiences of the Khuluma (and Mamela) workshop series. He is keen, said Price, to see more senior university and academic staff, particularly, attend these workshops. While attendance is voluntary, Price hoped to create the expectation that all staff will sign up.

Further meetings were held at the Medical School, and with representatives from student organisations. **CHRIS MCEVOY**



In the hot seat: VC Dr Max Price faced some tough questions at the Graduate School of Business and Hiddingh Campus, as well as at later meetings.

Universities must learn from Africa

MYOLISI GOPHE

South African universities should learn from the travails of the post-independence experiences of Africa, and listen to the continent, Ghanaian Professor Akilagpa Sawyerr said at the Vice-Chancellor's Symposium at UCT on 20 August.

Sawyerr, a former secretary of the Association of African Universities, and former Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Law at the University of Ghana, was one of three speakers.

Others were Dr Mamphela Ramphele, former vice-chancellor of UCT, and Professor Jonathan Jansen, Honorary Professor of Education at the University of Witwatersrand.

The event was part of the VC's installation programme and was triggered by, among other challenges, the threat to academic freedom and the need for universities to "marshal our resources", as Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price put it.

Sawyerr suggested that South Africa should learn from the rest of the continent and outlined the "ups and downs" of the University of Africa in his home country.

This university had moved from being a world-class institution that produced high-calibre graduates with "enough leftovers for the brain-drain", to years of crisis that had led to doubts



Actively listening: Ghanaian academic Prof Akilagpa Sawyerr responds to questions at the Vice-Chancellor's Symposium. He is flanked by VC Dr Max Price, left, Dr Mamphela Ramphele and Prof Jonathan Jansen.

about the economic viability of higher education.

"Universities failed to adapt adequately to the changes, and this resulted in serious problems like understaffing, overcrowding and

exodus," Sawyerr said.

Things had changed but there were still challenges around access, equity, quality of education, and globalisation.

Sawyerr advised South African universities to "actively listen" to

the continent and foster meaningful regional activities.

Ramphele said the "thriving" years inspired by the Madiba Magic were gone and that reality had begun to dawn on the country.

There was a need to identify vulnerabilities, point to fragilities, and learn from the successes of the past 14 years.

Ramphele described as "scandalous" the absence of centres of excellence in Africa, which prompted students to go abroad for top programmes in African Studies.

"We should hang our heads in shame."

Ramphele said the morality of power was still the same – control and command – and it was the challenge of universities to redefine power and power relationships.

Jansen described the role of the university by likening it to a city upon a hill, with the eyes of all people on it.

"Imagine a university where the community from an informal settlement can make the same ownership and participation claims for their children as those of well-heeled alumni of the upper-class schools for whom that university has become a birthright," he said.

Turning to Price, Jansen said: "Now, imagine a Vice-Chancellor who imagines, whose life demonstrates that ideas matter – and people more. Then you have the makings of a city on a hill whose light shines brightly through Newlands and Nyanga, Bishopscourt and Bishop Lavis, and onward through the rest of Africa and the entire world." **MP**

Rally fights HIV stigma

CHRIS MCEVOY

UCT's new Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price and outgoing Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Martin Hall addressed staff and students at the *UCT Stop Stigma Rally*, organised by HIV/AIDS Co-ordination – UCT (HAICU) on 21 August.

The rally aims to demonstrate a rejection of stigma and discrimination around HIV/AIDS on campus and to promote an environment in which people living with HIV can feel they can publicly disclose their status. Many HIV-positive people feel they can't publicly disclose their status for fear of social ostracisation, or even persecution. As a result of the stigma of HIV/AIDS, many resist getting themselves tested for HIV in fear of being ostracised by their communities.

In-depth interviews were conducted with seven volunteer female UCT HIV positive students, explains HAICU director, Cal Volks. "The students spoke of deciding not to disclose their HIV status after hearing stigmatising views from students on campus. Some participants had not disclosed to even their close friends at UCT, despite describing a longing to do so and the burden of keeping a secret. This reflects the develop-



Supporters: (Top) Students and staff at the rally. (Left) Prof Nicoli Natrass, award-winning author of *Mortal Combat: AIDS Denialism and the Struggle for Antiretrovirals in South Africa* and *The Moral Economy of AIDS in South Africa*; Vice-Chancellor Dr Max Price; MC Hlubi Mboya, who plays the HIV-positive Nandipa in soapie *Isidingo*; DVC Professor Martin Hall, who oversees UCT's HIV/AIDS initiatives; and DVC Prof Thandabantu Nhlapo, who oversees student matters.

ment of a complex identity for the individual HIV-positive students, in an environment rich in discourses around equality, yet experienced as judgmental."

The event was kicked off with a "surprise freeze" on Jammie Plaza, in which first-year drama students froze in their tracks to symbolise the stopping of stigma. Hlubi Mboya, who plays the HIV-positive Nandipa in local soapie *Isidingo*, MC'd the event, and music was provided by double SAMA winner Tasha Baxter and her band. A photographic exhibition by Paul Weinberg of the UCT community's fight against stigma was also on display.

In his address, Price said, "Stigma is everyone's problem, because if you develop an attitude that makes people feel that they are at risk when telling you that they are HIV-positive, then you are at risk." He noted that HIV should be perceived as any other chronic condition like diabetes or hypertension, and urged the audience to fight stigma by getting tested.

"Ignorance and fear, the root causes of stigma, have resulted in 'othering' and denigration, or targeting of difference," said Hall. "As we embrace diversity, so may we stop stigma and learn valuable lessons around stopping all forms of stigma and discrimination." **MP**