

Prohibition of annual events: Sixes-by-Sevens and Trolley Races

The annual Sixes-by-Sevens event and the Trolley Races have previously been organised by students via social media and without the University's permission. Valid concerns have been expressed in various quarters and the University's Institutional Forum has recommended that steps be taken to put a stop to what has become an irresponsible and dangerous practice by groups of students and individual organisers.

Each of the events named above entails the excessive consumption of alcohol, followed by physical exercise, in one instance by running around a field and in another by racing with trolleys. These events intentionally cause students to vomit. The intoxicated and anti-social behaviour that follows is unacceptable, so too the very serious health and safety risks that arise. It is possible that individual students are subjected to subtle pressure or even coercion to participate. Some may experience this as an initiation practice. Students are reminded that all initiation practices, no matter how subtle, are prohibited at UCT.

The University rules on student conduct are outlined in Handbook 3, General Rules and Policies. The two events named (or any similar activity) contravene these rules. The named events have never been approved by the University and are now expressly prohibited. Students who participate in these events will in future face disciplinary action.

Dr Max Price
Vice-Chancellor,
24 November 2014