



Communication and Marketing Department
Isebe loThungelwano neNtengiso
Kommunikasie en Bemerkingsdepartement

Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, South Africa
Welgelegen House, Chapel Road Extension, Rosebank, Cape Town
Tel: +27 (0) 21 650 5427/5428/5674 Fax: +27 (0) 21 650 5628

www.uct.ac.za

1 June 2016

UCT acknowledges student protest today

A group of about 30 people protested outside the Bremner building at the University of Cape Town today, demanding the withdrawal of the court interdict against five people (three of whom are students). These people had been under temporary interdict until a judgment of the Western Cape High Court determined that they had made themselves guilty of unlawful acts, including arson, vandalism, intimidation, hate speech and disobeying a court interdict. As a result, these five students are prohibited from coming onto the UCT campus.

We are aware of allegations, posted on social media, that UCT is victimizing and criminalising black students for taking part in protest action. These allegations are false, and the protest today demonstrates that fact. The university has always encouraged lawful protest and at no time have any UCT students been victimized for participating in lawful protest action. Lawful protest is a constitutional right that UCT will continue to safeguard.

We are concerned, however that interdicted students came onto campus on 25 May 2016 and again today and are therefore in violation of a high court order. This is an extremely serious offence that will lead to arrest. We urge students who want to protest not to enable or assist students who are breaking the law.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Francis Petersen accepted the protesters' [demands](#). The group has insisted that UCT should have until tomorrow lunch time to respond these demands. The executive will respond once it has considered the demands appropriately. UCT will lay a charge with the South African Police Services with regards to interdicted students who breach the court ruling.

UPDATE at 18:00:

UCT confirms that this afternoon at around 17:00 a group of protesters formed a chain across a public road preventing vehicles and foot traffic to pass and interfering with the normal flow of traffic. Some of the protesters interfered with motorist and passengers and made

themselves guilty of intimidation. The public order police unit used a teargas canister to assist in dispersing the protesters so that the flow of foot traffic and vehicles could return to normal. UCT suspects that many of the protesters were not UCT students. UCT will assist the SAPS in identifying individuals that make themselves guilty of unlawful behaviour like interfering with public traffic or intimidation. If any UCT student is found to have done so, they will in addition face internal disciplinary charges.

ENDS

Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

Patricia Lucas

Tel: (021) 650 5428 Fax (021) 650 5628

Cell: 076 292 8047

E-mail: pat.lucas@uct.ac.za

University of Cape Town

Rondebosch

Website: www.uct.ac.za