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UCT resumes student work in Khayelitsha

**Please cite Gerda Kruger, Executive Director: Communication & Marketing
Department at UCT**

University of Cape Town staff and students resumed their full range of programmes in Khayelitsha on 24 August 2016, including clinical training for health sciences students, following a meeting between UCT staff and community leaders on 23 August.

UCT involvement in Khayelitsha is an important part of students' practice as well as the university's social responsiveness initiatives. The university is fully committed to continuing our active partnership in the Khayelitsha community. A temporary suspension of student involvement was necessary following the robbery of six UCT students travelling in Site B in Khayelitsha on 16 August 2016.

The meeting on 23 August was chaired by Mr Eric Magodla, the Head of School Safety at Metropole East Education District (MEED). Participants agreed that it was a very positive first step in addressing crime levels in the area, as it highlighted the commitment of all stakeholders to collaborate. In addition to MEED, participants included the Khayelitsha Chair of SANCO (the South African National Civic Organisation), the three South African Police Service station commanders, principals from six of the seven schools where UCT has a presence, either through the Schools Improvement Initiative (SII) or the School of Education, and UCT representatives from the Health Sciences Faculty, the SII and the School of Education.

The meeting focused on developing strategies for improving safety within the broader Khayelitsha community, particularly in relation to schools. It was agreed that this is the beginning of a process that will be taken further into wider community forums.

ENDS

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