



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
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Response from the Executive to SRC demands received on 24 October 2017.

1. 0% fee increment at the UCT to be pronounced by an emergency council sitting
2. The immediate release of the Fees Commission Report

UCT Response: -

- *UCT understands the plight of varied adverse impacts of increasing student fees to students and their families. However, the university has no realistic alternative to consider increasing fees in an absence of a public funding policy framework.*
- *Our work in the free education planning group unit led by student continues with its work around seeking viable options for free education.*
 - *We continue to urge all UCT stakeholders including students to participate in providing and seeking solutions on this national matter of importance.*
- *UCT continues to call on government to immediately release the Fees Commission Report.*
 - *In this regard we agree with the SRC that the delay creates uncertainty.*
 - *Therefore, on Monday, 23 October 2017, the vice chancellor Dr Max Price: -*
 - *Wrote a letter to the President of the Republic of South Africa urging for the release of the report.*
 - *Issued a public statement further advocating for the release of the fees commission report.*
 - *We remain open to ideas of how we can exert pressure for the release of the report.*
- 3. An emergency Institutional Commission of Inquiry into all the deaths of students over the past 2-5 years that relate to suicide

UCT Response: -

- *We undertake to prioritise the adoption and implementation of the mental health policy given the high prevalence of student deaths this year.*
- *The Mental Health Task Team has already been asked to look at trends of student deaths and to better understand the profile of students who have passed away over the last 5 years.*
- *The Mental Health Task Team will also compile a list of pro bono mental health service providers nationally. This will be posted on the UCT website and also attached to communication for students who have successfully applied for Leave of Absence.*

"Our Mission is to be an outstanding teaching and research university, educating for life and addressing the challenges facing our society."

- *The Student Wellness Services has restructured its service to substantially reduce waiting periods. Additional mental health practitioners are being employed and bystander training for wardens and lecturers will commence soon.*
 - *The newly appointed director of SWS will continue engagements at residences to create awareness around mental wellness.*
4. Substantial financial report on expenditure on paramilitary services on the campus over the past two years.

UCT Response:

- *UCT has spent R24,28 million over the last two years of which R10 million were paid by insurance.*

5. Clearance of Historical Debt for the year 2017 and no financial barriers to registration for 2018

UCT Response:

The demand for the clearance of historic debt and no financial barriers to registration is a demand that would require further engagement. There is no doubt that the UCT Executive is committed to assisting financially and academically eligible students and as in previous years the commitment to fund students remains and the Executive will do whatever is possible within the budget constraints to ensure support to students that meet the UCT financial aid eligibility rules. We encourage the student leadership to participate in structures that are capacitated to deal with these issues.

6. Draft framework that will address the residence and housing intake for the year 2018 for students who do not get residence offers, particularly those in first year and those who have been denied residence for next year.

UCT Response:

- *We continue to review of Student Housing Policy, which is geared to prioritise the vulnerable. This includes: -*
 - *Financial Aid students*
 - *Younger students, etc*
- *Student leadership continues to play a pivotal role in the student housing policy formulation and review.*
- *We have already secured 300 additional beds to assist first time entering students with academic offers but no housing offers. In addition, we are working on remodelling OCSAS operations which will as it did this year, work with off-campus accommodation providers to ensure that we have additional accommodation off-campus to ensure that UCT students are not without accommodation.*

Regards,

Prof Loretta Feris