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UCT statement on claims by former GSB lecturer

The University of Cape Town (UCT) has taken note of recent statements made by Mr Athol Williams in the media and at the Zondo Commission of Inquiry into State Capture.

Mr Williams expresses his disappointment at the university's alleged lack of support for his anti-corruption and anti-state capture whistle-blowing role and he makes allegations against UCT in relation to his departure from the university.

The facts are that Mr Williams tendered his resignation letter to the Graduate School of Business on 14 September 2020. His resignation was accepted. In departing Mr Williams expressed gratitude to UCT for giving him an opportunity to teach and availed himself for possible future roles at UCT. The insinuation that his resignation was forced by UCT is simply not factual.

Mr Williams has also suggested that the UCT leadership has not attended to concerns he has raised post his resignation. To the contrary, the UCT leadership made available a person via the appropriate structure within the university and Mr Williams has been participating in this process that has the intention to resolve the issues he may have. Mr Williams has been co-operating in this process, and prior to his recent public statements it was the university's understanding that he was engaged in this process.

The university rejects Mr Williams' claim that the university is an enabler of state capture.

For the record we wish to add that UCT supports the Zondo Commission of Inquiry into State Capture and all other efforts aimed at understanding and urgently remediating state capture and corruption. As an institution, UCT has previously made a public call against state capture.

UCT also acknowledges and appreciate the important and vital role played by whistle blowers in this critical work against state capture and corruption.

ENDS

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