



10 September 2021

Statement from the Chair of Council, Ms Babalwa Nkonyama, on the apology of the VC following Sunday's session titled 'What does science say about LGBTQIA+'

As the Chair of the Council of the University of Cape Town, I note and welcome the unreserved apology from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng for the hurt and distress caused by the session that she hosted on Sunday, 5 September entitled, 'What does science say about LGBTQIA+'.

I appreciate her humility, integrity and courage in reflecting on this matter and her recognition that there was harm caused.

I have no doubt that the VC will use this moment of learning to come back even stronger in her continued quest to work towards inclusivity and diversity for all. She has at the centre of her work and vision for the institution always promoted human rights and dignity for all.

I am sure she will work very hard to reach out to the LGBTQIA+ community and those concerned with what transpired and will attempt to make amends.

I have no doubt that the excellent work done all across UCT that has placed us at the forefront of issues of inclusivity and diversity will continue and go from strength to strength.

Babalwa Nkonyama, CA (SA)
Chair of UCT Council