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UCT SRC to use Motsepe Foundation donation to help international students

The University of Cape Town (UCT) Students' Representative Council (SRC) will use the R1 million donation from the Motsepe Foundation to assist international students.

SRC President Hlamulo Khorommbi said this decision was taken because international students did not benefit from the [recent concessions approved by Council](#) for students with debt above R10 000.

Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Motsepe Foundation and UCT's Chancellor, Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe, announced on Sunday, 25 February 2024, a donation of R30 million to the SRC's of 26 universities in South Africa.

The foundation said the donation would be allocated towards alleviating student challenges surrounding registration, fees and historical debt.

During the Universities in Dialogue meeting held at the Sandton Convention Centre, student leaders from 26 universities shared their concerns and solutions to youth unemployment and the uncertain Future of Work. The deliberations revealed the vital role of collaboration between the private sector and academic institutions to drive meaningful research endeavours and address the skills and information mismatch that exists in the labour market.

“We must not merely reflect on these insights but pledge ourselves to actions that will dismantle barriers, inspire hope, and pave pathways of opportunity,” said Dr Moloi-Motsepe.

Khorommbi said the decision to direct the donation towards international students was in line with UCT's being an international, inclusive and transformative institution. “Our objective as the SRC is to be student-centered. We will be releasing communication in due time that is addressed to the students who could not get assistance previously. This donation will play a remarkable role in providing access to tertiary education to all,” he said.

UCT Vice-Chancellor (interim) Emeritus Professor Daya Reddy said the donation will contribute towards measures to assist students facing financial challenges, adding that the Motsepe Foundation's commitment to assisting students financially would enable wider access to higher education.

“For UCT, this donation signifies an investment towards our mission to provide opportunities for academically eligible students, regardless of their socio-economic background. By alleviating the burden of historical debts and registration fees, we can further cultivate an inclusive learning environment in which every student can thrive,” said Professor Reddy.

He added: “We express our deepest gratitude to the Motsepe Foundation for their commitment to advancing education and making it possible for many of our students to achieve their academic ambitions. Together, we will continue to work towards providing such vital support,” concluded Professor Reddy.

The Motsepe Foundation hopes to encourage support from other private and non-profit stakeholders, who stand to benefit from an educated and skilled youth population.

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