

TIMELINE ON THE PROPOSAL FOR AN ACADEMIC BOYCOTT OF ISRAELI INSTITUTIONS IN OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

This document provides a timeline on Senate discussions on the proposal for an academic boycott of Israeli institutions in occupied Palestinian territories

Senate Timeline

- In 2017, the Palestinian Solidarity Forum (PSF) wrote to the then Vice-Chancellor calling for the University to implement an academic boycott of Israeli academic institutions.
- On 3 April 2017, the Vice-Chancellor sought the Senate Executive Committee (SEC)'s advice.
- On 14 June 2017, the matter was brought to the attention of the Academic Freedom Committee (AFC) by SEC.
- On 31 August 2017, a special meeting of the AFC was arranged to hear presentations by both PSF and South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS). Arising from these discussions, the AFC developed an alternative proposal that would limit UCT's relations with Israeli academic institutions at an institutional-level.
- On 24 November 2017, Senate met and considered the proposal put forward by the AFC but agreed that SEC and the AFC should meet to discuss the proposal
- On 25 April 2018 the SEC and AFC held their special joint meeting.
- On 23 November 2018, Senate met and resolved by majority vote not to support the proposal from the Palestinian Solidarity Forum for a boycott of Israeli academic institutions.
- On 15 March 2019, Senate met to consider the proposal developed by the AFC. Following the debate the Senate resolved by a majority vote to support the following: "UCT will not enter into any formal relationships with Israeli academic institutions operating in the Occupied Palestinian Territories as well as other Israeli academic institutions enabling gross human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories".
- On 10 May 2019, Senate agreed to a more consultative process on the proposal. Senate also decided that the UCT executive will work on determining how the consultation process would be carried out.