

MEDIA STATEMENT: UCT IRTC COMMENCES WITH HEARINGS

The University of Cape Town's Institutional Reconciliation & Transformation Commission (IRTC) commenced with hearings of the students that were involved in the Shackville Protests during the Rhodes Must Fall (RMF) and Fees Must Fall (FMF) Protests at the University.

7 students made submissions and appeared before the IRTC on March 27th & 28th on UCT campus.

The proceedings started off with the students requesting that they collectively make a group submission and appear as a collective as they felt appearing as Individuals was a 'divide and rule' tactic. The students and the Commission engaged and reached an agreement where the students could choose if they wanted their sessions to be confidential or open to the public. The IRTC further explained the reasons for the need of Written Individual Submissions in this process, which the students in the end understood.

This statement outlines the general issues as opposed to providing detailed accounts raised during the hearings, with the aim to protect the confidentiality of the students who made the submissions.

The students made submissions with full disclosure and took responsibility for their actions in the conflict, while calling for UCT Management to also make submissions to the IRTC regarding their role in the RMF, FMF and Shackville protests that the IRTC was born to resolve.

The hearings continued March 28th with the last 2 of the 7 students making submissions, following which the IRTC will make formal recommendations and take decisions as an independent entity, with regard to fulfilling its mandate of this first part of the mission to achieve Reconciliation and Transformation at UCT.