

3 May 2021

Dr. Momokgethi Phakeng
Vice Chancellor
University of Cape Town
Rondebosch 7701
South Africa

Dear Vice Chancellor Phakeng,

We write on behalf of our respective colleges to express our sorrow at the devastation caused by the recent wildfires that not only destroyed buildings at the University of Cape Town, but also led to the destruction of archives and collections important to the history and scholarship of South Africa. While we certainly are thankful that everyone is safe, we are thinking about all of you and the pain and loss that you and the rest of the UCT community must be feeling.

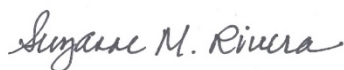
For 17 years, UCT has generously opened its doors to students from Macalester College, Pomona College, and Swarthmore College. Our three institutions make up a consortium that has been promoting the exchange of our students coordinated by members of the UCT Department of Geographical and Environmental Science. At the same time, UCT honors students in GES have been able to join our students in specially designed seminars meant to foster a deeper understanding of globalization and its relationship to the environment and society. Former participants indicate that their time at UCT and in Cape Town opened their eyes, broadened their horizons, and helped them to develop a deeper understanding of South Africa and the world.

We were relieved to hear that you were able to safely evacuate more than 4,000 students into temporary housing and have since moved as many as possible back to campus. We imagine that the coming days and weeks will be spent assessing the damage as you look to rebuild and begin creating new stores of knowledge and experience.

As a gesture of solidarity, the consortium is making a donation of \$17,000 US dollars to the UCT recovery fund. Our hope is that this small gesture will help in your efforts to recover, resume studies, and rebuild your campus in the wake of this unimaginable devastation.

We are inspired by your resilience and determination to move forward, pursue new scholarship, and focus on the opportunities of the future.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Rivera
President
Macalester College



G. Gabrielle Starr
President
Pomona College



Valerie Smith
President
Swarthmore College

