

MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: UCT IRTC CONDUCTS 2nd ROUND OF HEARINGS.

On April 9th 2018, the UCT Institutional Reconciliation & Transformation Commission (IRTC) held the second round of hearings from 2 students as well as UCT Management into the conflict stemming from the Rhodes Must Fall (RMF) & Fees Must Fall (Protests) that resulted in the Shackville Protests.

The Terms Of Recommendation of the UCT IRTC are, inter alia, as follows:

- '1. Look into what is referred to as the 'Shackville protests' of February 2016, including any related and subsequent protest actions.
2. Invite submissions from all constituencies on the clemencies granted and make recommendations on converting clemencies into amnesty (or the continuation of clemency) and what the nature of these amnesties will be.
3. Make recommendations on how to deal with the outstanding cases in the spirit of restorative justice.'

In terms of its mandate, the IRTC considered 9 out of 13 cases arising under point 2. It made recommendations in 7 cases and communicated this to the Steering Committee. Two cases heard on the 9 April 2018 are also under consideration at this point. The IRTC continues to make efforts to ensure that the remaining 4 students which are outstanding are made aware of the IRTC process. A deadline has been set for the receipt of applications whereupon the IRTC will assume that these students have chosen not to make submissions.

In relation to cases referred to under 3, the IRTC wishes to point out that the University management itself has not decided on how to deal with the students involved. It is not clear as to whether charges have been laid against them and whether any disciplinary hearings have been held in respect of the 2016 and 2017 cases. The IRTC is also not clear on whether students implicated or affected have been informed of the potential charges or disciplinary hearings as they are unknown. The IRTC is preparing a brief which explains these problems in more detail. The IRTC is of the view that it is not competent at this point to hear these cases.

We will also be engaging with the Steering Committee on the 19 April, so that constituencies may engage with us through the SC.

Further, we welcome submissions on a process of restorative justice which would fulfil the intentions of clause 3. Such submissions to be forwarded to the IRTC before 18 April, 2018. Submissions which have already been made in this regard will be informed in due course of a date for hearings.

*Submissions can be made to candice.amon@uct.ac.za

-Ends.