

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



THE CONVOCATION

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Convocation held in Kramer Law Building LT1 on Thursday 13 December 2018

Present

The President of Convocation (Lorna Houston), the Vice-Chancellor (Professor M Phakeng), the Secretary of Convocation (Royston Pillay) and members who signed the roll, and whose names are recorded in the minute book.

Apologies

Members whose names are recorded in the minute book.

1. Welcome and preliminary matters

(a) Welcome

The President of Convocation, Lorna Houston welcomed all members of Convocation to the Annual General Meeting for 2018. She established that with 48 members present, the quorum requirement of 30 had been met.

(b) Register and Apologies

The names of those present and apologies received are recorded in the minute book.

(c) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 14 December 2017

The President pointed out that the minutes of the AGM held on 14 December 2017 had been published on the University's website. However, the hard copies of the minutes available at the meeting were those of the reconvened meeting held on 28 February 2017 and not those of the meeting held on 14 December 2017. She apologised for this error. The meeting noted that there were no constitutional provisions that prohibited the meeting to defer consideration of the minutes to the next AGM of convocation and unanimously resolved to defer consideration of the minutes to the 2019 AGM of Convocation.

2. Vice-Chancellor's Report

The President of Convocation invited the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, to present her report, which the Vice-Chancellor did.

The report is appended to the minutes as Appendix I.

3. Report of the President of Convocation

The President of Convocation, Lorna Houston, presented her report. The report is appended to these minutes as Appendix II.

4. Motions

4.1 Motion to recognise Extra Mural Studies' (EMS) Summer Schools and other outreach events as an integral and indispensable part of UCT as a higher education institution

Mr Keith Gottschalk, seconded by Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza, had moved that the Convocation call upon the UCT Executive to recognize Extra Mural Studies, its Summer Schools, and other outreach events, as an integral and indispensable part of UCT as a higher education institution, and to continue to resource it as a permanent, valued participator in the UCT family, fulfilling the social responsiveness goal 5, bringing immense, indisputable, intangible benefits to UCT and its marketing and outreach components.

Mr Gottschalk introduced his motion. He told the house that the motion urged the UCT Executive to not terminate the seven-decade old Summer School, a flagship programme of Extra Mural Studies (EMS). He reasoned that EMS should be considered as a member of the UCT family and pointed out that the Legacy Society had managed to raise R4 million in donations and pledges for bequests at Summer School. EMS was the most transformed department in the University in as far as all its staff was either black or female; Academics at Summer School showcased black excellence to an earlier generation of alumni and other UCT supporters; and that EMS had extended its lectures programme to Athlone to broaden the rainbow of demography

The Chair invited comments from the house.

Two members of the Convocation spoke in support of the motion. The first noted that the Summer School was not being marketed effectively and suggested that steps be taken to improve marketing. The former Dean of CHED, Professor Suellen Shay, who was previously responsible for managing EMS, pointed out that the major problem was that EMS was not being funded from the University's General Operating Budget. She noted that the relatively small cost of EMS was far outweighed by the incredible benefits that the programme brought. This included the University's outreach programme to students of Khayelitsha.

Ms Libo Msengana-Bam reported on behalf of the Executive Director: Development and Alumni, Dr Russell Ally, that a decision had already been taken by UCT not to terminate the Summer School and that discussions were underway to explore how Summer School could be integrated into the Development and Alumni Department

The motion was put to the vote and **adopted** with 50 members voting in favour, none against and one member abstaining.

4.2 Motion regarding guidelines for quicker appointments and processes for identifying academic staff interested in administrative positions

Mr Laurence Gawronsky, seconded by Ms Susanna Yang, had moved that the Convocation recommends that the UCT Council provide guidelines for quicker appointments, and implement a process of identifying academic staff interested in, and suitable for senior administrative and management positions. Furthermore, guidelines needed to be established and implemented to provide suitable career paths with career planning and training for academics with an interest in university administration, taking into account the University's academic standing, strategic and transformation goals.

Mr Gawronsky spoke to his motion. He told the house that his motion was not a criticism of the University. He said that there was a need to start looking at career paths, particularly for academic staff that would be involved in administration. He noted that a different skills set was required and that not every academic had the background, interest, passion or understanding of the issues involved.

Several members spoke against the motion. They argued that

- Career planning was not applicable to academic staff only and should apply to all staff.
- The motion would not address the issue of the divide between academic and PASS staff.
- Transformation of the staff profile required bringing younger staff members into the fold.

Mr Gawronsky replied to the debate. He noted that career planning could be done across the University. He argued that there were too many positions on the top three levels filled by acting staff and that it was difficult to run an organization with people in acting positions.

The motion was put to the vote and **defeated** with thirteen members voting in favour, twenty against and ten members abstaining.

4.3 Motion to devise a strategic plan with timelines to increase student residence accommodation

Mr Laurence Gawronsky, seconded by Ms Susanna Yang, had moved that the Convocation recommends that the UCT Council devise a strategic plan

to remedy the critical shortage of student accommodation where only 6900 places were available for the 28703 students with timelines to increase residential accommodation to provide places for a minimum of 50% of the student body. That this strategic plan in increasing accommodation be published and finance be obtained to implement such a plan.

Mr Nigel Haupt, from the Capital Planning & Projects section in the Department of Properties & Services addressed the house and gave an overview of interventions by the University to address the accommodation shortage. He said that the University was presently building the first phase of a an 800-bed housing project on UCT owned land. Once this project had been completed no more opportunities to build accommodation would exist as the University had no more vacant land available on which housing projects could be developed. However, the University's Integrated Development Framework has identified parcels of land currently belonging to the City of Cape Town and the Western Cape Province. This combined land would be able to provide 4 108 beds at a cost of R500 000 per bed, based on various methods of development e.g. entering into a lease agreement with the City in order to build on its land, noting that this was a time-consuming process. A recent request for proposals had shown that traditional brick and mortar building remained a cheaper option. This was proof that the way in which the University was going in terms of its commitment of providing student housing was the correct way. He pointed out that the recent mushrooming of private residences on the Main Road was providing opportunities for the University to negotiate with developers to lease space from them.

The motion was put to the vote and **adopted** with twenty-five members voting in favour, eleven against and eight members abstaining

4.4 Motion to congratulate the UCT Debating Union on hosting the 2019 World University Debating Championship (WUDC)

Mr Laurence Gawronsky, seconded by Ms Susanna Yang, had moved that the Convocation congratulates the UCT Debating Union on hosting the 2019 World University Debating Championship (WUDC).

Mr Gawronsky noted that the WUDC gathered some of the world's greatest minds from tertiary institutions across the globe. Universities and their respective debating unions would be sending teams of speakers and adjudicators. Over 630 competitors and 200 adjudicators as well as support staff from the leading universities around the world, would attend.

A member questioned why the Debating Union was specifically highlighted. He contended that the Debating Union was racially skewed and that Convocation would communicate the wrong message if it was to adopt the motion.

Mr Gawronsky replied that to his knowledge the Debating Union comprised of a diverse mix of people. He was of the view that this was an important event for the University.

The motion was put to the vote and **defeated** with fifteen members voting in favour, nineteen against and nine members abstaining.

4.5 Motion to ask the Registrar to provide regular feedback on how adopted motions are being dealt with.

Ms Dianna Yach, in the absence of Mr Chris Wiid (the original proposer), seconded by Keitumetsi Nare moved that the Convocation ask the Registrar to provide regular feedback on how adopted motions were being dealt with.

The context for the motion was that several motions were generally adopted at Convocation AGM's. In order for the process of the submission and adoption of motions to be taken seriously, clear statements on results and/or findings, must be distributed.

The motion put to the vote and was **adopted** with forty-one members voting in favour, one against and two members abstaining

4.6 Motion to establish a dedicated fund

Mr Peter van Heusden, seconded by Dr Karen Lorraine Daniels had moved that the University of Cape Town establishes a dedicated fund to support research into

- (i) The varied relationships between the University of Cape Town and the segregationist and racial ideologies of the Colonial and Apartheid eras.
- (ii) The experiences - documented, archived or oral - of previously disenfranchised students and staff members at the University of Cape Town since its establishment in 1916.
- (iii) Acts of exclusion, those of commission and omission, including, but not limited to the University of Cape Town's allocation of resources, access to facilities and curriculum design and content during the Colonial and Apartheid eras.

This fund should also support dissemination of the results of this research in print and electronic form. This fund should be established by June 2019 and it should be administered by the Centre for African Studies or another similarly suitable department with unobstructed and open access to all archival holdings, collections and like resources.

Furthermore, the President of Convocation shall report to Convocation within 6 (six) months of the adoption of this resolution on the progress in implementation of the resolution.

Mr van Heusden told the house that his reason for submitting the motion was because of *inter alia*:

- The recent news of Raymond Suttner being awarded a LLM by UCT, nearly 50 years after initial submission which once again illustrated

that the legacy of UCT is intimately intertwined with that of colonialism and Apartheid.

- Philip Kgosana, memorialised at UCT after his passing in 2017, was informed on registering at the University that “only selected places on campus” were accessible to him. These did not include boarding facilities and he spent his student days lodging in the hostels of Langa.

A member sought clarity on whether the motion addressed the issue of access to research information given that some University Committees were blocking access to information. Another member spoke in support of the motion and drew attention to what was in his view the appalling state of the memory of 1987 student unrest which in his estimation was equal to the Rhodes Must Fall protests.

Dr Daniels, the seconder of the motion, gave her reason for seconding the motion which was that the University had many untold and hidden stories.

The motion was put to the vote and **adopted** with forty members voting in favour, three against and two members abstaining

5. ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF CONVOCATION

The President thanked members for their support during her term of office.

The Secretary called for nominations for a President of Convocation who would serve in that capacity for a term of two years.

Professor Eddy Moloka, Mr Peter van Heusden and Mr Keenan Hendrickse were nominated, the nominations were seconded and the nominees accepted nomination. However, Mr van Heusden later withdrew his acceptance of the nomination.

The house noted that

- Professor Moloka held a BA (hons) and PhD from UCT and had performed outstandingly in his leadership of the Pan African Parliament Peer Review process and that his international experience and expertise would stand the Convocation in good stead.
- Mr Keenan Hendrickse had experience in student affairs.

The house proceeded to vote by secret ballot and elected Professor Eddy Moloka as President of Convocation for the period to December 2020 with twenty members voting in his favour, nineteen members voting in favour of Mr Hendrickse and six members abstaining from the vote.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20:13

**University of Cape Town
Vice-Chancellor's Report to The Convocation of the University of Cape
Town:
13 December 2018**

I assumed the position of Vice-Chancellor on 1 July 2018 and thus will give a report of the state of the university within this context and timeframe.

2018 academic year

The 2018 academic year has progressed and concluded smoothly and will culminate with 6 graduation ceremonies scheduled to be held on 13 and 14 December. It is important to note that this will be the first year since 2015 to conclude in terms of the official UCT calendar.

Although the campus was not disrupted as over the last few years, students experience significant stress particularly over examination periods. To this end we communicated the importance of mental and physical health throughout the year and encouraged students to take advantage of the varied and free support services available at the university. We have also acknowledged that the consolidation period of just five days is short, but have assured students that the Senate Executive Committee is discussing options for increasing the length of consolidation week from 2019.

I look forward to my robing ceremony on 13 December made even more special by including an unusual graduation of a cohort of students who have not been able to graduate to date because of fee debt. I would like to thank a group of donors who have donated R5 million rand for this purpose.

Staff and student awards

The 15th Student Leadership Awards was held on 17 October. This is an annual event partnered by the Department of Student Affairs awards and Investec Corporate Social Investment to acknowledge individual students as well as student teams for their leadership contributions in respect of community, social justice, entrepreneurship and media.

The inaugural UCT Annual Awards took place on Monday, 19 November. This was the first time that all sectors of the UCT staff community gathered together to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of professional, administrative support and service (PASS) and academic staff. More than 400 staff members came together in a celebration of UCT's overall excellence with awards handed out for long service, ad hominem promotions, the prestigious Alan Pifer Award, and the Distinguished Teacher Awards. This was done with the purpose of building an even stronger community where everyone's contribution is valued, and excellence is acknowledged in all aspects – from gardening and catering services to maintenance teams, as well as administrative and professional staff, to academics and students.

The Leadership Lekgotla

The Executive has renamed our senior management group the Leadership Lekgotla. This comprises the VC, DVCs, Deans and Executive Directors. We meet more regularly with formal meetings being held on a monthly basis and engage with many and diverse strategic matters. We have experienced significant challenges over the

last two years or so with a serious turnover of senior staff. The situation is stabilising with the recent permanent appointments the COO, Dean of Commerce, Director of the GSB, the EDs Properties & Services, Libraries and ICTS. However, there is still much work to be done in the appointment of the DVC Research & Internationalisation and Deans of Science, Humanities, Health Sciences, Law and CHED and bringing stability to the senior management structure.

SRC elections 2018/2019

The SRC elections for the 2018/2019 SRC was successfully held and concluded at the Constituting Meeting on 16 October. The new SRC have quickly become very engaged with University matters and I look forward to working with them over the next cycle.

2019 budgeting and planning process

This process has gone well with a focus on aligning the budget to our strategic goals, and we will be ready to present the budget to Council in December. We applied our minds to what is working and what is not and will apply a number of changes to both process and structure in 2019.

Engagements and connections

The value of developing and building relations with all sectors of the University community as well as external communities, organizations and stakeholders cannot be over-emphasized and underpins all five goals of the strategic planning framework and my own vision. The report below gives a snapshot of some of the interactions that have taken place over the last few months. This is part of a broader plan to engage with all constituencies over the next year.

Alumni and external stakeholders

I have initiated meetings with the UCT alumni – first the Cape Town and then the Gauteng chapter and UCTABA. Both meetings were very well attended. I presented my vision which was well received with many questions and opinions expressed in the session following the presentation. It will be important to continue engaging with alumni in order to both understand and respond to their frustrations and concerns which I hope will lead to building constructive relationships.

I am also committed to developing and building relationships with external stakeholders particularly in our local communities. To this end I have visited local churches attended by some of our insourced staff, union leaders and parents of student activists; UCT's community projects, and provincial political formations as a way to connect with our fellow citizens, but specifically with our underprivileged communities. These visits took me to Langa, Mitchell's Plain, Khayelitsha and Hanover Park, among other areas, where I got a sense of the importance of our work, especially that of the Health Sciences and Commerce faculties, along with the Graduate School of Business.

Engagement with schools

This month I addressed a meeting of principals of schools around Cape Town as well as other key stakeholders in education. The meeting was well attended with about 50 interested and engaged people. Our plan is to develop a strong relationship with this constituency and regain their confidence in UCT. I also delivered an address at the valedictory service of Rondebosch Boys High and received very positive feedback from parents and teachers.

Engagement with the Minister of Higher Educations and Training

Over the last few months the Executive has attended meetings of Vice Chancellors, Chairs of Councils and the Minister Pandor to discuss a number of matters including security at our universities, gender-based violence on campuses, and university fees and fee increases.

International travel and engagement

I have taken a number of international trips since the start of my tenure as Vice-Chancellor. These include travel to Ghana to attend meetings with the Mastercard Foundation. We have a ten-year funding agreement with Mastercard and so far, they have funded 338 students from across the continent to study at UCT with only 20% being South Africans.

I travelled to London for meetings to explore partnerships between Alliance of Research Universities in Africa (ARUA), which we are a key member of and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) as well as the Russel Group of Universities, and to address the UCT Trust Donor reception.

My recent trip to Dubai focussed on the Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils 2018.

Mamokgethi Phakeng

Vice-Chancellor

7 December 2018

Address to UCT Convocation Annual General Meeting 13 December 2018 By Lorna Houston, President of Convocation

Good evening and welcome to all members of Convocation, First and foremost I would like to extend a heartfelt word of congratulations to Professor Mmamokgethi Phakeng, who was robed this morning by the Chancellor, Graca Machel. Professor Phakeng, the winds of change have brought you and us to this place at the foot of Table Mountain.

As Convocation this is a place we return to from time to time, for you this will be your home and place of work for the next five years. It will be our task to support and also to challenge you. We wish you strength and courage for the road ahead.

My engagement at UCT with issues relating to transformation has always been driven by what Steve Biko called ‘a quest for true humanity’. In a university that centred whiteness I felt it demanded of Blacks to build solidarity and Black Consciousness.

When I was elected President of Convocation two years ago, I knew that we needed the university management to take a stand and make a clear break with the past, and clearly move this university away from its apartheid and colonial vestiges. I had an idea to invite the alumni who had been treated by UCT as subhumans during apartheid back to UCT where we could dialogue, apologise to them and bring healing. I hoped to do this together with the Centre for African Studies. Prof Ntsebeza was on sabbatical at the time and while he was away, time passed. I soon realised that UCT is still a university where people are suffering in silence, and more recently, also bleeding in public and that there was no particular interest in making a break with the past even though a number of changes have been implemented since the 1990s. There remains a yearning for a particular UCT and what I came to realise was that this yearning is for a university located within a society of entrenched legalised racism, a society that was literally built on the backs of the suffering indigenous peoples of this country. We cannot return to that time! I felt I could not pursue my idea, it made no sense to me to invite people who had been brutalised back into this environment.

Today our Chancellor Graca Machel made a profound statement:

This new era that Professor Phakeng is ushering in, is one where we must see Black scholars multiply and thrive. We must develop both the quantity AND quality of black students, faculty and administrators alike. We must provide an environment where Black excellence is nurtured, incentivized, valued and integrated fully into the structures of academia.

I am inspired and encouraged by her words, I am similarly inspired and encouraged by Professor Phakeng’s address to the graduands this morning where she spoke at length about the value of service and the importance of giving because you see a need, not because you have excess.

In 2015, 2016 and 2017 #rhodesmustfall #feesmustfall exposed many of the institutional failings. In spite of that nothing prepared me for the systemic and psychological violence that dominates UCT. The innumerable microaggressions, the making invisible, the gaslighting, the possessive investment in whiteness. I say this, yet I lived and worked at UCT for 12 years worked full time concurrently, I was a warden living on campus 1997-2003 and I completed a BSocSc 1995-1998. I did all this as a single mother raising my two daughters. I held various positions at that time, all focussed on transformation. Nothing prepared me for what UCT has become.

29 August 2017 in the cafeteria. A white man spoke over me while I was being assisted, put in his order. Then when he catches up with me at the coffee station where you have to pour your own filter coffee, he wants me to pour his coffee.

The challenge is to root out this kind of violence and instead to create a university environment that allows us to flourish, an environment that is caring and nurturing. We have seen positive responses and changes to a number of the issues that students have raised relating to curriculum change, mental health, institutional culture and the symbols and art work and the establishment of the Institutional Reconciliation and Transformation Commission to name a few. As Convocation I hope that we will continue to engage constructively with the university.

The past two years have been a difficult time in the life of UCT. Change can be painful, even when it is what we choose. It has not been easy for the university community as large in number as UCT is, and with tremendously divergent views and a student body with a strong appetite for fairness, justice and equality, to hear each other and to find ways to move the university forward.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me over these two years, it is sincerely appreciated. Tomorrow I will award the President of Convocation Medal to Professor Pumla Dineo Gqola. In closing, I will leave you with these words by Steven Bantu Biko

We have set out on a quest for true humanity, and somewhere on the distant horizon we can see the glittering prize. Let us march forth with courage and determination, drawing strength from our common plight and our brotherhood. In time we shall be in a position to bestow upon South Africa the greatest gift possible – a more human face.