

## **MOTION 1**

### **Motion to the University of Cape Town Convocation- on Measures for Expanding Convocation participation through Technology**

Brought by: Robert Moses Magotsi

Seconder: Kalpana Nathoo

Noting that the Physical presence of members of the convocation in Cape Town to Participate in the Gathering of the convocation has been superseded by two events namely;

- a) The University Alumni are spread throughout the world and a requirement for a physical meeting, limits the participation of Alumni and diminishes their likelihood to be involved in the university activities and
- b) That there exists modern technology to allow participation of Alumni in the convocation gathering without necessarily being physically present.

This motion proposes the following

- 1) Convocation, votes and recommends that the Executive Leadership of the University, look in ways and means of increasing the participation of the convocation beyond the handful of members physically present including an online convocation. This should include research into the potential reach of digital means and any changes to instruments establishing the convocation that requires physical congregation of members.
- 2) That the Executive Leadership take all measures reasonable to use technology to increase the reach and participation of Alumni in the Convocation, including educating alumni on the role, purpose and importance of the convocation.
- 3) That the University Executive put in motion measures to increase convocation participation by changing the meeting format to allow for participation via videolink, webcast, conference calls or any other technology that would be able to increase the participation from major cities around the world
- 4) That the University Executive, take appropriate measures including proposing amendments to the statute that mandates the Convocation taking place by Physical gathering of Alumni
- 5) If this measure is not yet implemented at the next Convocation, that the University Executive reports to this convocation and each and every convocation progress made in this endeavour until the motion is substantially fulfilled and given effect.

## **MOTION 2**

### **Motion to the University of Cape Town Convocation- on Measures for empowering Female Students in Self Defence martial arts techniques**

Brought by: Robert Moses Magotsi

Seconder: Kalpana Nathoo

Recognising and appreciating the efforts and campaigns the university has been involved in to deal with issues around gender violence and creating a conducive environment for learning and research, this motion seeks to empower female students to be able to take their security in their own hand should such occasions arise

Realising the danger in which female students operate and recognising that until society and especially men change their attitudes towards ladies, that reasonable measure be taken to empower female students to be able to defend themselves should they find themselves in such situations. In order to give female students choice of defence and empower those willing to learn to defend themselves, this convocation

- a) The meeting recommends and advises the University Executive to conduct research/commission a study on the various martial arts sports that give one the power to be able to disable without hurting an attacker, with a view to promoting such sports among female students especially
- b) Having done such research develop a program of training for all willing female Students as a free service being part of the sports being offered by the University.
- c) That Until Such a program becomes a normal part of empowering our female students, and sports program of the University, The Executive leadership reports back to this Convocation on progress being made to this end.

Motion 3

**2019 UCT Convocation: Second motion calling for UCT to divest from fossil fuels**

Brought by: Mellony Spark

Secunder: David Le Page

It is now six years since the Fossil Free UCT campaign first called on the university to phase out over five years all investments in coal, oil and gas – fossil fuels – that are the leading cause of deadly climate breakdown. In those six years, the global fossil fuel divestment movement has grown from a handful of institutions to well over a thousand, including New York, Paris, London, our own city of Cape Town; a whole country, Ireland; and half of all British universities. Most have continued to get the same or better returns on their investments.

The university has made some progress. It appointed an ethical investment task team, and then a responsible investment panel which is now meeting just four times a year. Our new Vice Chancellor has appointed a campus sustainability officer. This is good. But it is nodding to trends, it is not leading, not yet.

Over these six years, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased from 400 parts per million to 415 parts per million, not just increasing, but even now, still *\*accelerating\** away from the pre-industrial level of 280 parts per million. This is the highest level in at least 3.5 million years. Our human species has never lived with CO<sub>2</sub> levels even close to this high.

But even as UCT researchers track this advancing cataclysm, UCT has not divested from fossil fuels.

It is four years since the world's nations agreed in Paris to limit global warming, fuelled principally by burning fossil fuels, to 1.5 degrees, but UCT has not divested from fossil fuels.

South Africa is crippled by drought, with our fellow citizens experiencing terrible privations, and Cape Town nearly ran out of water last year, but UCT has not yet divested from fossil fuels.

The Sasol share price has halved in the past six years, but UCT has not divested from fossil fuels.

It is two years since Convocation first voted overwhelmingly in favour of the university divesting over the next five years, but UCT has still not even published its current investments, as Convocation then requested.

In September, 7.6 million people around the world, led by children, marched for the climate – but UCT has not divested.

It is five years, five long years, since a Nobel Peace laureate, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, called on UCT to divest from fossil fuels – yet UCT has not yet listened. Will the Archbishop pass away with his call to a supposedly progressive institution still unheard?

Our national leaders, our politicians, claim to be worried about climate breakdown, but are still egging on our coal and gas industries. They either do not understand or do not care that a safe climate is being destroyed by these industries. One might argue that this is to be expected when the leading university in Africa, the continent most vulnerable to climate catastrophe, has yet to demonstrate a decisive stance on the issue.

Dozens of institutions in countries less affected by climate breakdown than South Africa are declaring climate emergencies, but in a country warming at twice the pace of the global average, it seems there is no climate emergency yet at UCT.

We call on the Vice Chancellor, Council, the University Panel on Responsible Investment, and the Joint Investment Committee to commit at last to real leadership on climate change, that is:

- to become the first South African and African university to commit loudly and publicly to fossil fuel divestment,
- to publicly disclose fossil fuel investments by UCT and the UCT Foundation by the end of January 2019,
- to commit to phasing out at least 80% of all equity investments in fossil fuels by the end of 2020,
- and to report on progress towards this goal at next year's Convocation.