

***Statement from the Deans Advisory Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences,
University of Cape Town***

The Faculty of Health Sciences supports the national student call to address the inequitable access to higher education in South Africa.

We acknowledge the right of students to protest freely and peacefully. We condemn the violence perpetrated by the police against our students.

We remain committed to addressing the health needs of South Africans through the education and training of the health professionals who serve our communities.

We the Faculty Leadership:

- **demand** the immediate release of all university students who have been arrested as a result of the recent student protests.
- **demand** the immediate suspension of UCT's Court Interdict against our students.
- **appeal** to National Government to provide additional funding that will enable universities to place a moratorium on fee increases for the 2016 academic year.
- **commit** to a review of the fee structure and financial support in our faculty to ensure that funding is not a barrier to access.
- **urge** all stakeholders to engage in constructive dialogue to resolve the current impasse and address the challenges of access to higher education.

Graduating health professionals is critical to meeting the health needs of our country. We call on all stakeholders to work with us to ensure the graduation of our final year students. We are committed to the uninterrupted provision of health care in our communities.

(22 October 2015 10:45)