UCT SRC Position on Minster’s Announcement: 19 September 16

The SRC notes the announcement made by the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Blade Nzimande, this morning. In a bid to ensure our students are well informed about what this means for UCT, please see the information below.

The minister has indicated that NSFAS and ‘Missing Middle’ students will not be paying a fee increase for 2017. That is anybody who is currently on Financial Aid (NSFAS & GAP) at UCT and any potential applicants whose family income is below R600 000. What does this look like in numbers?

UCT Financial Aid numbers:

 NSFAS recipients: 2 825

 GAP (Missing Middle): 899

Total: 3 724 will automatically receive a 0% fee increment

Although this is a positive step, we remain dissatisfied by the Ministers lack of attention to the resounding call for Free Education in our lifetime. We are strongly opposed to the Minster's absolving of government responsibility in ensuring university councils do not go above the 8% mentioned especially evidenced by the lack of a clear plan to ensure all those who qualify for a zero percent will access it. It is uncertain what this means for African International students particularly from the SADC regions.

We call upon the President of the Republic to change the mandate of the Presidential Commission from a question of ‘feasibility’ to that of ‘How do we implement Free Higher Education’. The current lens of the Commission does not ensure a clear commitment from the state to the realization of greater access to higher education but allows for a way out which may result in the poor, Black child waning.

If the President continues to ignore this call, we will join others to rally for mass action and take our battle to the foot of Parliament, National Treasury and the Union Buildings.

EVER FORWARD! BACKWARDS NEVER!

Statement issued on behalf of the 2015/2016 UCT SRC.

 Rorisang Moseli

 SRC President