

UCT Alumni Association Annual General Meeting 18 February 2021

Notices of Motion

Motion 1:

Brought by: Emeritus Professor Kit Vaughan

Seconder: Dianna Yach

We call on members of the Alumni Association to ratify a motion that was approved by the UCT Convocation on the 9 December 2020 that provides for the Alumni Advisory Board to serve as the Executive Committee of Convocation on an interim basis (for a period of 1 year). The proposal aims to bring the Alumni Association and the Convocation together to rationalise and ensure closer cooperation with the President of Convocation and to provide the necessary support to the President of Convocation.

The primary motivation for the motion was to develop infrastructure to support the President of Convocation which was not currently provided for in the University's statute. The motion that was approved by Convocation would result in the rationalisation of resources. This approach was in line with most other South African Universities.

The UCT Convocation is a statutory body, whilst the UCT Alumni Association is a voluntary association whose purpose includes the promotion of support for UCT from amongst its members, and to assist in fundraising activities for UCT.

The affairs of the Alumni Association are presently managed by an Alumni Advisory Board consisting of the President of Convocation; members of Council elected by Convocation; and seven additional members elected by the Alumni Association at its AGM.

Conversely, the Office of the President of Convocation does not enjoy similar infrastructure or committee support.

The motion seeks support for transitional arrangements to be put in place so that concrete proposals can be developed for this rationalisation process including structure, governance, and budgetary implications. It is envisaged that the interim period would be approximately one year during which time the Chairperson of the Alumni Advisory Board and the President of Convocation would work together to facilitate arrangements.

Motion 2:

Brought by: Martin Plaut

Seconder: Professor Michael Kahn

We call on the university administration to take active steps to address what is clearly becoming an increasingly racially divided and divisive culture of condemnation and bullying on campus. Urgent steps must be taken to rebuild a culture of non-racialism and to ensure that UCT becomes a place where study, research and teaching can continue unimpeded by intolerance.

The Alumni of UCT have witnessed with growing concern the resurgence of intolerant racial essentialism at the university. Where once this was enforced by the apartheid regime it is now promoted by a “woke” administration. Ever since ‘Fallist’ protestors were allowed to rampage across the campus without facing real sanctions - terrorising staff and students and destroying cultural objects in their attack on ‘colonialism’ and ‘whiteness’ – an atmosphere of fear has hung over the university. The Alumni also note with alarm the concerns raised by the outgoing university Ombud about bullying and the fear of retribution this provokes, undermining what should be a university ‘community’. Academics have been prevented from lecturing on the campus, have had their research condemned as racially offensive without any prior due process, and many have resigned. Most tragically of all, the suicide of Professor Bongani Mayosi has been attributed in large part to the lack of adequate support by the university and especially to aggressive condemnation on the part of Fallist students for supposedly being a race traitor. We call on the university administration to take active steps to address what is clearly becoming an increasingly racially divided and divisive culture of condemnation and bullying on campus. Urgent steps must be taken to rebuild a culture of non-racialism and to ensure that UCT becomes a place where study, research and teaching can continue unimpeded by intolerance.