

Over the past three weeks, we as the students of the Health Sciences Faculty at UCT have been active members in the nationwide student protest. In these past weeks we as the student body of our faculty had time to discuss faculty specific issues and drafted a set of demands. On Tuesday, 4 October 2016 we vacated our occupation of the Hamilton Naki Suite (formerly known as the Dean's Suites) voluntarily as a result of our demands being met by the Dean of Health Sciences.

Throughout this process we learnt a lot about the importance of engaging in good faith. We applaud the Dean and the staff of the Faculty for being willing to abandon the normal hierarchal power dynamics that exist in Student-Faculty negotiations, and adopt a more horizontal structure in the interest of finding solutions.

We as Health Science students remain part of the greater movement in the University of Cape Town that is calling for a #ShackvilleTRC, #BringBackOurCadres and the national #FeesMustFall movement. Due to our commitment to these causes we have continued to actively disrupt classes, despite our demands being met, in an attempt to win the ear of the senior management of the University of Cape Town.

Today we have decided to march to Bremner, as it is the building in which decisions that affect the entire University are made. Today we are asking that the decisions made be made with students and not in their absence.

We as the Health Sciences Students, with the support of some Health Sciences staff call for:

- Free Decolonial Education
- Demilitarisation of the University of Cape Town
- Dialogue that does not victimise, blame, marginalise or villainise those who have been protesting against the oppressive systems that exist in this University
- The creation of dialogue in each faculty with regards to the faculty specific issues and the committing of necessary resources to ensure that these dialogues take place
- The return of our cadres
- A Shackville TRC
- An end to outsourcing
- A formal apology from the senior leadership group of the university (of which Professor Mayosi is part) for the emotional and physical harm caused to students as a result of the decisions made by the senior leadership group of the university.

We implore you to take the time to actively and openly engage with students and advocate on our behalf on the above mentioned issues, in the hope of working together to move forward. Solutions can only be found when an environment of trust is created and when one is open to engage with empathy and honesty.

Students and Staff of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Cape Town.