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**TRUE AFRICA
UNIVERSITY**

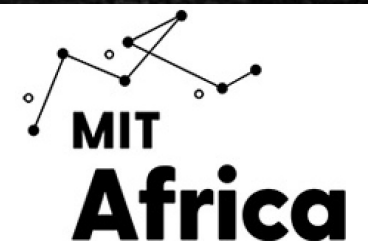
April 27th, 2023 | Webinar



How Can Africa's Young Activists Change the Continent?

Busisiwe Seabe

Social Justice Activist



THE SOUTH AFRICAN FEES MUST FALL MOVEMENT

The Struggle for Free Quality Decolonized Education

The Feces that Launched a Student Movement

When a black South African student threw a bucket of excrement over a statue of Cecil Rhodes, it kicked off a protest movement that shattered the way the country saw its past



UCT RHODES MUST FALL MISSION STATEMENT

List of Demands

- - Remove all statues and plaques on campus celebrating white supremacists.
- - Rename buildings and roads from names commemorating only white people, to names of either black historical figures, or to names that contribute to this university taking seriously its African positionality.
- - Replace artworks that exoticise the black experience (by white, predominantly male artists) which are presented without context, with artworks produced by young, black artists.
- - Recognise that the history of those who built our university - enslaved and working class black people - has been erased through institutional culture. Pay more attention to historical sites of

violence, such as the slave graves beneath the buildings in which we learn.

- Implement a curriculum which critically centres Africa and the subaltern. By this we mean treating African discourses as the point of departure - through addressing not only content, but languages and methodologies of education and learning - and only examining western traditions in so far as they are relevant to our own experience.

Provide financial and research support to black academics and staff.

- Radically change the representation of black lecturers across faculties.
- Revise the limitations on access to senior positions for black academics. This includes interrogating the notion of "academic excellence" which is used to limit black academics and students' progression within the university.
- Increase the representation of black academics on the currently predominantly white, male decision making bodies which perpetuate institutional racism.

List of Demands Continued..

- Re-evaluate the standards by which research areas are decided - from areas that are lucrative and centre whiteness, to areas that are relevant to the lives of black people locally and on the continent.

- Introduce a curriculum and research scholarship linked to social justice and the experiences of black people.

- Adopt an admissions policy that explicitly uses race as a proxy for disadvantage, prioritizing black applicants.

- Remove the NBT as a requirement for admission because it systematically disadvantages all students except those who attend Model C schools and private schools.

- Improve academic support programmes.

- Meaningfully interrogate why black students are most often at the brunt of academic exclusion.

- Develop an improved financial aid system and Radically reduce the currently extortionate fees.

- Improve facilities that deal with sexual assault, as well as facilities that help black students deal with the psychological trauma as a result of racism.

- Implement R10 000 pm minimum basic for UCT workers as a step towards a living wage, in the spirit of Marikana.

Stop using the Consumer Price Index which ensures that wages never really increase, leaving workers in poverty.

- End outsourcing. The companies must go, the workers must stay.

- There should be no capitalist companies making profits at this public sector institution. Workers must know that their job is safe, has decent working conditions and ensures comfortable lives.

- Education for workers and their families must be free.

- Stop the victimisation and intimidation of workers. No worker must be penalised in any way for supporting and joining protest action, including strike action, at UCT.

- Workers must be able, without penalty of any kind, to refuse work that is a danger or hazard to their health and safety.

- Provide workers with access to services dealing with labour, family, housing issues.

- Provide workers with avenues through which to report and address experiences of racism, sexism and other forms of abuse. These avenues must assist in enforcing legal action against the perpetrator.

Get rid of the Supplemented Living Level, which prescribes a poverty wage

From South Africa to the World



The Beginning of Fees Must Fall

The peaceful student revolt that changed the education landscape in South Africa

All Roads Lead to Blockade

First Day of the #FMF Shutdown



Students March to Luthuli House



“Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfill it, or betray it”- Franz Fanon.

The FeesMustFall campaign was the most important student protest since the Soweto Uprisings of 1976, and it became the biggest student protest movement in democratic South Africa.

The 1976 youth uprisings in Soweto was against the apartheid education system. Black youths fought against policies that would force them to learn in Afrikaans, and more than 100 people were killed by police.



Nearly 40 years after the Soweto Uprisings, a generation of so-called “born frees” are again fighting for access to education.

FEES MUST FALL DESCENDS ON THE UNION BUILDINGS



A PEACEFUL STRUGGLE MOVEMENT TURNED VIOLENT



“Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent”-Isaac Asimov



PUTTING OUR BODIES ON THE LINE



LEADING FEES MUST FALL INTO 2023

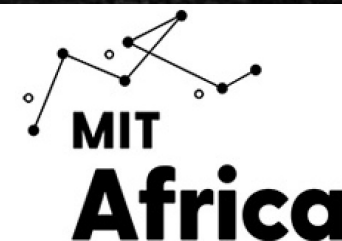


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Thank you!

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RECOMMENDED READINGS

