

## **SRC Statement on Fee Increment**

Receive our humble yet revolutionary greetings, following the odoriferous fallacy that has been making rounds through various forms of communication by a group of demagogues misleading students about the increase of fees in Durban University of Technology.

One would like to firstly acknowledge that the level of communication between the Students Representative Council and the students has somehow been ineffective, that might have been caused by the instability that has enveloped our campuses due to various reasons. Allow us to take this opportunity and provide clarity to the entire constituency of DUT, last week on Wednesday 12 October 2016 the SRC sat in a meeting with the team from the Finance Department to present to the SRC the 2017 budget plan. The budget plan had proposed the 8% fee increment for 2017, of which the SRC never agreed upon. As it stands, there is no fee increment in DUT, there has only been a proposal. It becomes very worrisome when there is a group of people out of bitterness and power hunger try to pull popularity stunts and spread cheap propaganda in pursuit of decampaigning the democratically elected SRC by claiming that the SRC has sold out students and agreed to the 8% fee increase while that is total fallacy.

These are the people who use students to advance their own political programme, their primary task is to cause mayhem in our campuses through violence, intimidation, hooliganism and all that could only degrade our university into something not worth its name. And, when it degrades, the quality of its education will degrade too, the prospects for employment of its graduates will degrade too, the quality of life of the households and communities whose livelihoods depend on our graduates to break the chain of poverty will degrade too. The SRC will never put the lives of students at stake, our interests are solemnly with students, we will by all means defend and protect students from the anti-majoritarian lumpens seeking to gain popularity at the expense of students even if it means we have to take unpopular decisions.

The SRC represents not only a few but the entire DUT students' populace, however we will always be biased to the poor and the working class as they make up the majority of the constituency we lead, hence we will never allow any astronomical fee hike. The SRC still supports the call for free quality education, the SRC recognise that some of the demands are beyond the university control and influence but they lie upon the government to realise and implement. We urge students to take their time and study hard as exams are approaching; furthermore the SRC offices are still open to students for any form of possible assistance. Aluta continua!

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