



30 June 2016

Judge Jonathan Heher

The Chairperson of the Commission

Inquiry into Higher Education and Training (The Fees Commission)

P.O. Box 440

Pretoria

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SUBMISSION DOCUMENT THE COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY INTO HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING (THE FEES COMMISSION)

The Federation of Unions of South Africa (FEDUSA) would like to thank the Commissioner for the opportunity to comment on the Commission's enquiry into the probability of fee-free higher education. FEDUSA recognises the importance of higher education in our country and the economic challenges we are facing and consequently has been in support with the feasibility of a fee free higher education campaign.

FEDUSA is in support of the submission of our Affiliated trade union , National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) in May 2016 .We believe that one of their objective of "*...critically examine the role of institutions of tertiary education in a changing society in an effort to promote the equitable and fullest utilisation of the resources of these institutions...*". which also aim to promote equitable education opportunities at tertiary institutions as the organisation is to represent the economic, job security and workplace interests of workers, both academic and support staff.

FEDUSA believes that affordability and accessibility to Higher education is vital for our youth for our country to be able to close the gap on skills shortages that we are faced with. However it is not viable in our country current economic status that higher education access should be free to all but should be affordable and cheaper. We in support of NTEU view that ggovernment should re-prioritize its spending habits and develop a more adequate funding model for higher education, balancing institutional and student needs. Also an option

to transfer the substantive budget items from universities such as salaries and wage costs should be considered.

In conclusion, FEDUSA is fully in support with view submitted by NTEU and that low-cost higher education should positively be considered. Restructuring of funding must not jeopardize staffing levels and quality of higher education.

We have also attached hereto the submission presented by National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) in May 2016

Yours faithfully,



Dennis George
General Secretary

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