

30 June 2016

Good day All

As per the request I have circulated the document requests students and the University community to make submissions to assist the Commission. However, it seemed as if no one had the appetite to make recommendations to such a sensitive and serious matter that will affect us all.

The way I view it, it seems like individuals see protesting and forcing matters is the only way to get a long term solution. Which I differ in that thought. There is no way in this country we can have a free education for all, there is no way in this country we can have reduced fees throughout unless there is a plan in place. Our VC always said the government does not have money but collects money from tax payers.

This is my two senses in the matter as President of the RU SRC. On the concept of free education and fee increment.

- Free Education:

One first needs to debunk the reality and need for free education if it is feasible in our Tertiary institutions or not. As it seems we cannot afford free education economically and socially. By this I mean South Africa is not generating enough money to support each and every child that goes to HET. Rather SA's finances need to consider other social needs. Socially free education will still put the poor in a much difficult situation in a sense that the poor are already accommodated through NSFAS and the rich can always accommodate themselves, those in concern are the missing middle which struggle at most times. The idea of free education can be an idea to invest in for the future not the current state, imagine Mr Motsipe's child attaining free education or the rich white child. This puts us at huge gap even if we have equity or BEE.

My solution would be to attract the private sector to assist the missing middle more specially the employers of the missing middle. In that way you saying as an employer you invest on your employee's child education at tertiary level through Tax. As for the poor (NSFAS) they remain funded by the government at an obligation to also pay back the portion of the money to fund a first year. Then the rich pay full fees because they can afford rather than getting discounts or bursaries. If you look into this it would be in a sense of Tax collection by SARS the higher you earn the higher you pay.

- Fee Increment

University Fees are incredible expensive more especially to former white institutions which make it hard for a black poor or middle class child to access. As it stands students are not complaining about the current fees but they will have problems with any increment. This also speaks to quality education and ideally you will never get quality at a cheaper price but with education we need to at least not commodify it as to how much you should pay for it. It is a human right and it shall be acquired without any difficulties.

This is some of the material I have read through:

- <http://mg.co.za/article/2015-10-28-free-university-education-is-not-the-route-to-social-justice>
- http://www.che.ac.za/media_and_publications/kagisano-series/kagisano-number-10-student-funding
- <https://theconversation.com/free-university-education-is-not-the-route-to-social-justice-49755>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93l-YnMoinM>

Regards

Rhodes SRC President 2016

Mr Mlondolzi Gift Sandi