



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

September 2016

GENERAL

- NTEU has 14 branches across the country
- Organises in Higher Education and Training Sector
- Primary role to represent job security and workplace interests of workers
- Defend the continued employment of our members

SUMMARY OF CONCERNS

- Universities **and** TVETs important in these discussions
- Qualified free education, or full free education?
- Extreme budget constraints resulting in:
 - Failure to keep salaries up with inflation
 - Failure of institutions to manage cost inputs against inflation with the following consequences:
 - *Freezing of vacancies*
 - *Impacts on teaching*
 - *Research*
 - *General operating expenses*

NTEU PERSPECTIVES ON SUPPORTABLES

- We do not support:
 - *Increase in VAT*
 - *Introduction of graduation tax*
 - *Increased taxation on business*
 - *Indirect taxation on income*
 - *Privatisation*

ACHIEVING AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

- We see as possible:
 - For universities
 - Conversion of the staff cost component into direct civil service structure and budget
 - Allowance for institutions to raise a capped amount from students for cost of maintenance
 - For TVETs
 - A total cost to state option
 - University institutions retain a cost-to-student scheme



Thank you!