

EQUAL EDUCATION

Fees Commission Presentation
05 September 2016

About US

- ▶ **Equal Education (EE)** is a movement of learners, parents, teachers and community members. EE works for quality and equality in South African education, through research, analysis and evidence based activism.
- ▶ EE's head office is in the Western Cape, with satellite offices in Gauteng and the Eastern Cape, and a strong presence in KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo.
- ▶ Our focus and attention is directed by the interests of our members, drawn largely from working-class and poor communities.

Policy and Legislative Framework

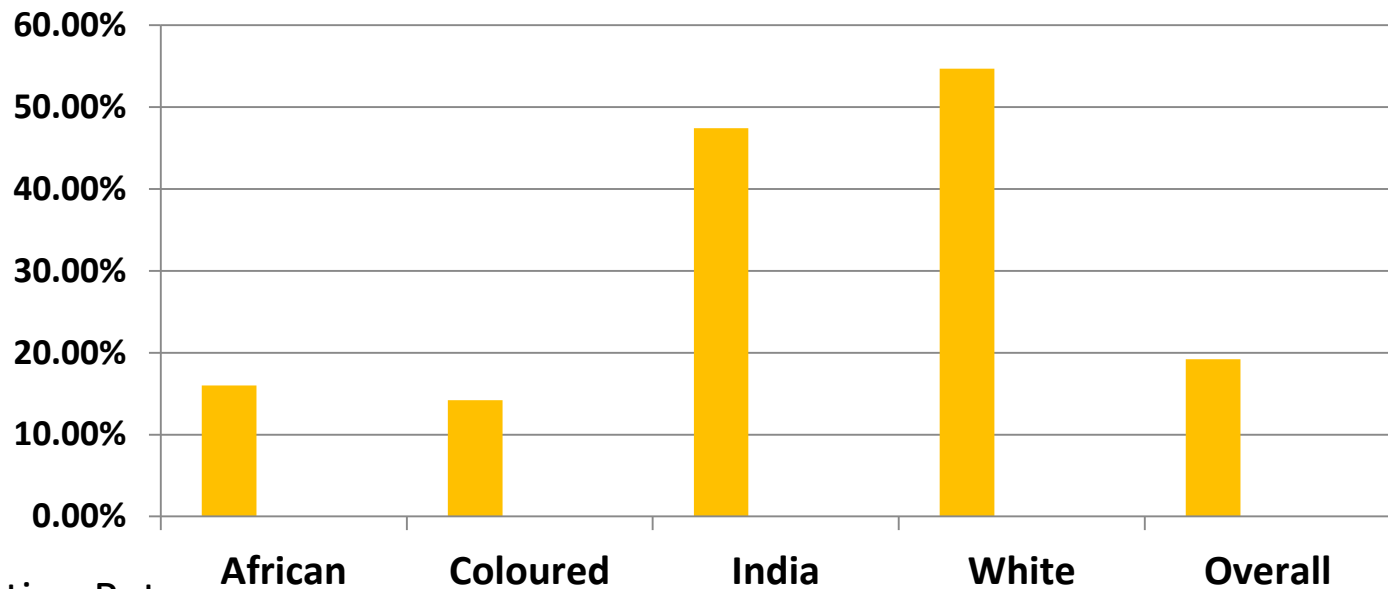
Constitution of South Africa

- Section 29
- ▶ **The Higher Education Act (No. 101 of 1997)**
 - Chapter 5
- ▶ **White Paper for Post-School Education and Training (2013)**
 - commits to progressively introduce “free education” for the poor in South Africa as resources become available
 - also clearly states: “The direct cost to students should be proportionate to their ability to pay... Financial need should not be an insuperable barrier to access and success in higher education”.

SA University Participation

- ▶ Access was a key factor post-1994
- ▶ In 2013 the gross participation rate had increased to 19%, up from 17% in 2011
- ▶ the higher education system is still characterised by gross discrepancies in the participation rates of students from different population groups, with the African and Coloured groups being the worst affected

SA University Participation



2013 Participation Rates

	African	Coloured	India	White	Overall
Participation Rate	16.00%	14.20%	47.40%	54.70%	19.20%
Population	4 128 451	412 243	110 337	315 660	4 966 691
Public HE	662 123	58 692	52 296	172 650	953 373

Participation Conti...

- ▶ Inequalities in higher education participation and access is sustained by;
 - historical considerations,
 - unequal access to critical infrastructure and resources that provide opportunity,
 - **the failures of the basic education system**
 - financial difficulties that put education out of the reach of many
 - **The differentiation between 'Model C' schools and the majority of Black school and the outputs produced**

Sector Transformation

- ▶ Institutions are still highly racialised;
- ▶ White students remain concentrated at the historically white institutions. Conversely, the historically Black institutions remain almost exclusively Black.

Historically Black Universities	Black Students (%)
University of the Western Cape	89
Fort Hare University	97
Walter Sisulu University	99.5
University of Zululand	99.2

Higher Education Funding

MTEF allocation for HE in 2015/16 financial year

	Adjusted Appropriation	Estimated	
R million	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
University Subsidies	26 286.1	27 964.8	31 606.8
Total	32 890.3	39 531.6	41 944.1
% of GDP (subsidies)	0.65%	0.64%	0.67%

SA Universities Funding

▶ Table: “White” universities income versus student body (2012-2013)

	UCT		Wits		Stellies		Rhodes	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
Student #'s	25 805	26 118	30 436	31 134	27 510	27 418	7 395	7 485
Income R'000	3,942,494	4,068,501	4,412,114	4,756,132	3,641,582	4,064,084	910,898	922,105

SA University Funding Cont.

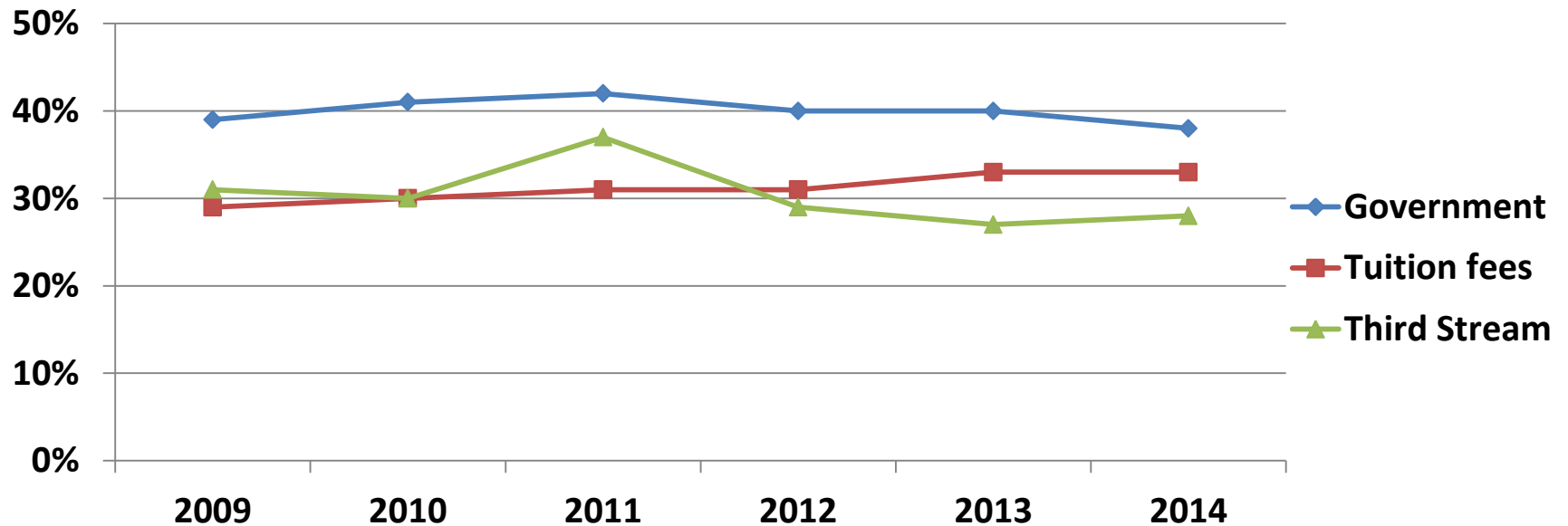
► Table: “Black” universities income versus student body (2012-2013)

	UWC		Walter Sisulu		Fort Hare		Zululand	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
Student #'s	19 591	20 383	24 613	24 122	12 044	13 315	16 434	16 591
Income R'000	1,408,265	1,577,477	1,263,468	1,326,520	767,706	779,887	769,891	774,616

SA University Funding Cont.

- ▶ The Historically Black Universities are lagging behind when it comes to income;
 - The University of Cape Town had a slightly higher student body than Walter Sisulu University, 1 996 more students to be exact, but the income difference was not proportional. UCT had an income of **R4.068 billion** in 2013 compared to WSU's **R1.326 billion**, that is almost 3 times higher.
 - Rhodes University had less than half the student body of the University of Zululand, but overshot their income by close to **R150 million**. Zululand has over 9 000 more students than Rhodes.

SA University Funding Cont.



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Government	39%	41%	42%	40%	40%	38%
Tuition fees	29%	30%	31%	31%	33%	33%
Third Stream	31%	30%	37%	29%	27%	28%

SA University Funding Cont.

- ▶ More reliance on tuition fees by universities
- ▶ Government funding decreasing over the years
- ▶ Third Stream funding also decreasing
- ▶ Student bear much of the burden
- ▶ The heavy reliance on tuition-fee income by South African universities has obvious implications for equity of access.

Equal Education's Recommendations

- ▶ Access to education should not be determined based on wealth and privilege. To accept such a system as permanent means growing inequality and increasing indebtedness of all but the very wealthy.
- ▶ The universities cannot and must not be expected to carry the burden of providing free tertiary education.

Equal Education's Recommendations

- ▶ The government needs to increase the funding by at least an aggregate amount equal to the ratio achieved in OECD countries to address the issue of the chronic underfunding of the higher education system
- ▶ No student who meets the requirements for admission to a university course should be excluded for financial reasons

Equal Education's Recommendations

- ▶ Poor students need to be prioritised in the realization of free higher education in South Africa.
- ▶ A determined State should examine the structure of personal taxation which could be levied for the top 10% of income earners in the country
- ▶ If necessary, this should be done through a tax reform on the wealthy.

Equal Education's Recommendations

- ▶ To start there must be an urgent review of vanity projects, bloated cabinet and the excessive number of deputy director generals in National and Provincial government departments.

THANK YOU