



RHODES UNIVERSITY

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OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR • EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: INFRASTRUCTURE, OPERATIONS & FINANCE

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29 May 2016

The Secretary
Commission of Enquiry into Higher Education & Training
Kempton Park

Per email: FeesHET@justice.gov.za

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission by Rhodes University

At the request of the University Council and the Vice Chancellor I am hereby submitting to the Commission the following documents for consideration:

1. *An Assessment of the Financial Sustainability of Rhodes University, July 2015*

This assessment was completed in July 2015, *prior* to the #Feesmustfall campaign and the announcement by the State President of the zero fee increase in higher education towards the end of last year. The reason for submitting this assessment is to draw the attention of the Commission to the fact that, *prior* to the #Feesmust fall campaign and zero fee increase announcement, the financial sustainability of Rhodes University, a small, rural university highly dependent upon government subsidy and student fee income, had *already* been identified as a serious problem, and was in fact, the biggest challenge confronting the University;

2. *2016 Annual Performance Plan for Rhodes University*

This document is provided to the Commission as it provides insight into the projected impact of the concessions made during the #Feesmustfall campaign in order to increase access to the University by students from rural poor and working class backgrounds, as well as the implications of the zero fee increase announcement. Responding to the forecasts (operating and cashflow) provided in this report the Council of the University has requested the University's finance team to establish a financial viability plan to address the significant deficits forecast to 2018 unless significant change takes place within the funding framework of higher education.

As mentioned, these reports are provided to the Commission to provide insight into the precariousness of the financial position of Rhodes University as a representative of a small rural residential university. Rhodes University is ranked as one of the top research- intensive universities in South Africa, with one of the highest throughput rates in the country. This academic project is seriously under threat as remuneration levels decline, campus infrastructure maintenance backlogs increase steadily whilst safety standards decline, and the operating budgets shrink.

In compliance with the call for submissions to the Commission, the following information is provided:

- a) The full names and contact details of the person/s or entity making the submission;
Dr Iain Norman L'Ange – tel:046 6038125 email: i.lange@ru.ac.za
- b) An indication of the person and/ or entity on whose behalf the submission is being made;
Rhodes University, Grahamstown
- c) A full list of source documents referred to in the submissions;
N/A
- d) An indication of the willingness of such person or institution to present oral submission to the Commission, if called upon to do so;
I am willing to present oral submission to the Commission
- e) The language in which such person or institution shall prefer to make oral submission;
English
- f) The convenient timeframe and venue on which such person or institution shall be available to present oral evidence.
By mutual agreement with the Secretariat of the Commission.

On behalf of the Vice Chancellor and the Council of Rhodes University I hope these reports will be of interest and value to the Commission.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Iain L'Ange', written in a cursive style.

Dr Iain L'Ange
Executive Director: Infrastructure, Operations & Finance