

Memorandum to the South African Government

Save Our Universities:

We, the staff, students, parents, civil society and the community of the Western Cape Universities,

noting that,

- universities have been chronically under-funded by Government and support for students has been inadequate for many years,
- increasingly high fees, a lack of transformation and a challenging environment have placed higher education out of reach for many of our most promising youth, while those who are admitted must succeed and excel while subjected to extraordinarily difficult circumstances,
- this ever-deteriorating support for education is not in the interests of our developmental state and results in a squandering of talent that should instead be developed into the future leaders of our country,
- students and executives at many universities have failed to find common ground and workable solutions,
- the resulting crisis has plunged institutions into chaos, with violence and conflict displacing learning and research, and
- if no resolution is found soon, the impact on university staff and students, parents, graduates, business, government and society in general will be substantial and immediate, with consequences that will impact on us for many years,

hereby demand that,

- Government urgently address the crisis in the South African university and education sectors,

in particular that,

- Government urgently address the chronic under-funding of universities and students by increasing the funding allocated to universities and students, and
- Government urgently address the inequalities and under-resourcing of the education sector as a whole.