Statement:

We, as the democratic student assembly gathered in Solomon Mahlangu house recognize that negotiations made between the Witswatersrand SRC and Vice Chancellor Adam Habib without the consent or mandate of the student body as constituted by the student assembly gathered on 26 October 2015. We find their statement unacceptably vague in terms of time frames and other details. We the assembled student body address this vagueness below.

**Be warned**: We have been advised and have witnessed, that the SRC and political allies and funding are subverting Fees Must Fall nationally. We advise Fees Must Fall student movements to be wary of this elitist, debilitating force.

We disagree with these negotiations because they have not achieved all our short-terms goals because they fail to include written agreements to time-frames for the long-term goals. Please see below.

It is also a failure because the short-term goal achieved will continue to marginalize those most affected by financial exclusion.

1. **A 0% fee increment for 2016 for all universities across the country! The President has agreed to underwrite the cost of this, provided that the University makes some contribution.**

There will never be another fee increase, as University and government (with the cooption of the private sector) work towards Free Quality Education.

Registration fees will be scrapped indefinitely as University and government (with the cooption of the private sector) work towards Free Quality Education.

1. **The government has committed to convert NSFAS into grants (as opposed to loans), for poor students.**

A commitment from NSFAS of their plan of action must be released by Friday 30 October 2015, 12pm.

NSFAS needs to present a plan for how they are going to incorporate this and how they are going to define ‘poor students.’ In light of the current short fall of NSFAS to provide a complete package of funding for all poor students we demand a statement of how these issues will be addressed.

We are aware of an education tax and we demand transparency with regards to how this money is distributed into educational institutions.

Adam Habib agreed yesterday in the general student assembly to make available the books of the University as well as previous years’ financial reports in an aim to be transparent. Hence force, we demand the book from and including 2012 – 2015 be released on Sakai. A team of student, experts and university staff members will gather to review these as well as be permanently included in the Universities Financial meetings.

1. **Long-term issues to be addressed include free education, institutional autonomy, racism, and “black debt”.**

We demand that the issue of NSFAS debt being erased after 3 years, according to South African law, be addressed.

We demand that this point be readdressed with time frames and definitions of all terms.

‘black debt’ needs to be defined and addressed under the frameworks of NSFAS.

2012 Manguang Report on Free Education must be released by Higher Education Minister Blade Nzimande, to the media by Friday 30 October 2015, 12pm.

Future incoming Wits Vice Chancellor candidates must present a memorandum on how they will benefit the student body and policy, and be instated by vote constituting all university stake-holders.

Transformation of Senate: Senate must occur in the Great Hall and opened to as many students as possible.

1. **No increase in Wits fees including that of tuition and residential.**

See point 1; there will be no increase in Wits fees, nor residence fees. Only decreases until Free Quality Education is a reality.

1. **Extension and restructuring of the remaining academic programme and exam timetable that will allow students adequate time to prepare and catch up.**
2. **Extension of the accommodation period for residential students.**

\*point 5 and 6 should be collapsed into one point because they are inextricably related.

This point needs to include International Students, as well as Students who fall outside of those living in university controlled residences, e.g. South Point. The process to ensure the extension of visas must be taken up by the University and include other stakeholders such as the Department of Home Affairs and The South African Embassy.

A restructured exam timetable will be presented to the student body by Friday 30 October 2015, 12pm. This was clearly outlined in the proposition that Habib had.

1. **Drafting of a progressive Workers’ Charter with the various stakeholders especially those most affected, the workers themselves.**

There is already an existing report that is in the hands of Professor Crouch. Adam Habib had mentioned that he had not seen this, thus he must approach the professor.

1. **The establishment of an internal commission to investigate insourcing methods and their viability as well as the negative effects of outsourcing. The commission will have sufficient representation of the most important stakeholders.**

We define the most important stakeholders to be students and workers.

A report needs to be released on Friday 30 October 2015 consenting that outsourcing will fall by Friday noon as well as a plan for either co-employment or re-hiring, including access to all worker-contracts. Introduction of supplemented wage whilst insourcing is being abolished.

Campus control must be officially included into the insourcing policy and night shift and overtime must be paid back for outstanding salary since 2001/2004.

MJL workers (10) to be re-hired with immediate effect. Issues relating to other vender workers must also be resolved.

De-privatization of Matrix workers and be hired as Wits employees with all the benefits of a Wits staff member.

The 1: 700 pay ratio be decreased to 1: 350.

Leave is outstanding and decreasing due to the December shutdown. This must be rectified.

1. **To seek financial support for the children of all Workers’ who are outsourced and who qualify for Wits admission.**

Workers children, academically deserving, should be preferenced in admission policy. As well as for the workers who are academically deserving should get admission into the university.

1. **The University has agreed, in principle, to make every effort to resolve outstanding issues in good faith.**

See above point. In principle is not good enough. There is no good faith if the student body is not part of this decision making process.

1. **No disciplinary action will be taken against students involved in the protest.**

No disciplinary action as well as victimization of workers, outsourced and insourced, and academic staff (full and part-time staff). All workers must be paid for all the days of the duration of the strike.

1. **The calling of a General Assembly should we require it.**

As voted in Senate 26 October 2015 chaired by Vice Chancellor Adam Habib and Carol Crossly, there will be a General Assembly on Friday 30 October 2015.

We require all of our demands to be met by Friday 30 October 2015, if the academic is to continue.