How universities responded to #FeesMustFall

The #FeesMustFall movement united students across the country, but the universities responded with discord. While university responses often depended on the student behaviour on their particular campuses, student behaviour also reflected that of the university. While the actions of students have received a lot of attention, the differences in university actions have not, until now. We have selected a sampling of universities across the country.

How quick to interdict

The #FeesMustFall protest began on October 14 at Wits University, with other universities joining in the course of a week. Some universities immediately obtained interdicts against protesters. Others, like Wits, decided to get interdicts when protesting continued after President Jacob Zuma's 0% increase announcement on October 23. UKZN actually had an interdict still in place from student protests in September. Rhodes University was the only one of those investigated that did not obtain an interdict.

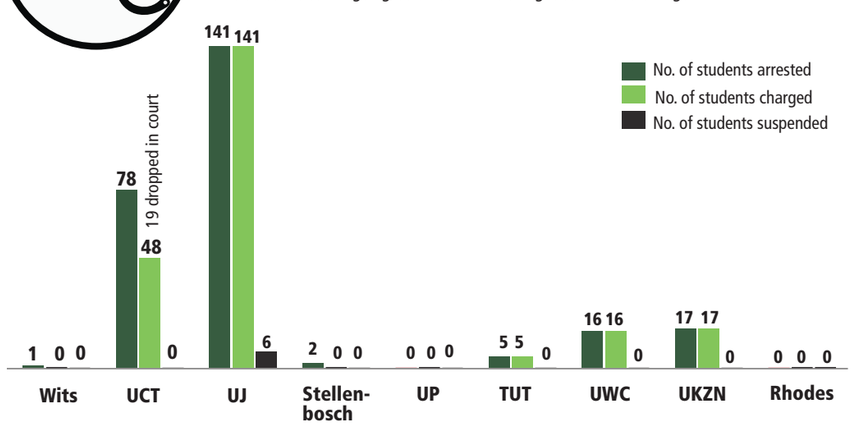
	Wits	UCT	UJ	Stellenbosch	UP
Date protests started	14/10/2015	19/10/2015	22/10/2015	19/10/2015	21/10/2015
Interdict obtained	29/10/2015	19/10/2015	23/10/2015	20/10/2015	21/10/2015

	TUT	UWC	UKZN	Rhodes
Date protests started	21/10/2015	21/10/2015	21/10/2015	19/10/2015
Interdict obtained	29/10/2015	30/10/2015	20/09/2015	Not obtained

Disciplinary action

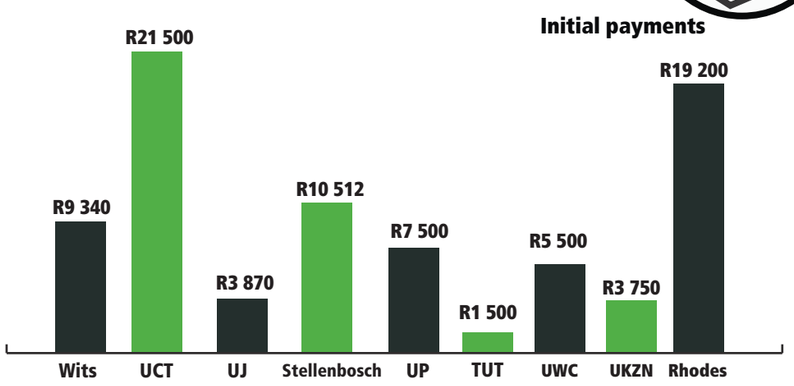
While the decision to arrest comes from police, universities had a say in how many police were allowed onto campus and how strictly the interdicts were enforced.

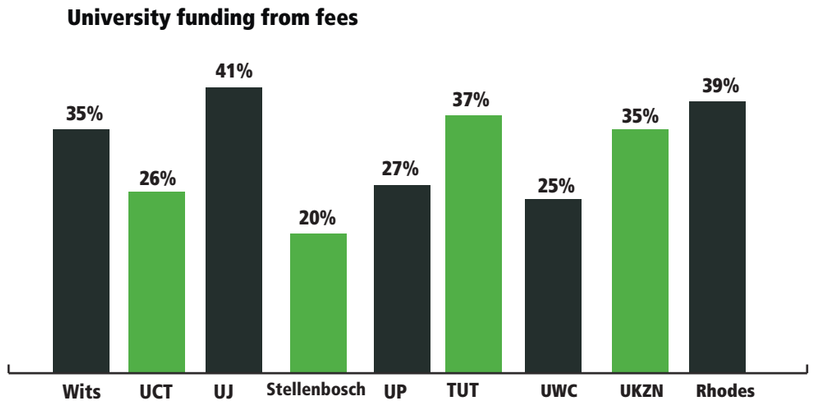
Universities said that internal disciplinary actions were still under way for some of their students. It is important to note that 29 people arrested from UCT were actually arrested at Parliament and not on campus, and the five arrested from TUT were arrested at the Union Buildings. All charges have been dropped except for those at Parliament. Protests at a few universities are still ongoing, so these numbers might continue to change.



University finances

The initial payment is the amount of total student fees that each individual student must pay upfront. While total fees depend on the course of study, the initial payment generally correlates to how expensive the university is compared to others. Many #Fees MustFall-related memoranda also called out these upfront fees for exacerbating the financial exclusion of poor, black students. Universities also differ in how much of their financial resources come from fees. UJ, which has made headlines for its strong reactions to the protests, relies the most heavily on student fees.

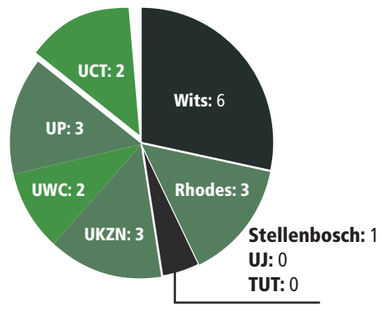




Co-operation

Students at many institutions have made clear it that they don't trust negotiations that occur only with student leadership. They want their vice-chancellors to discuss their issues at mass meetings for transparency. Some VCs have been more willing to put themselves into these giant groups than others. For many student groups, one of the major issues has been the outsourcing of workers at universities. Universities have shown differing levels of commitment to address this issue.

Instances VC met with students



Insourcing

Wits: Agreed to insourcing "in principle" and established a commission.
UCT: Agreed to insource workers within 6 months.
UJ: Agreed to insourcing by June 2017.
TUT: According to the university, outsourcing hasn't been a big issue.
UWC: Agreed to a feasibility study.
UKZN: According to a student leader, other issues have been more important.
Rhodes: Outsourcing hasn't been an issue because the university doesn't outsource workers.

Sources: University websites, university representatives, SAPS, Advocate Mustaque Holland, Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa, statssa.gov.za, students **Research:** Kate Morrissey **Graphic:** Sithembile Mtolo

'Crack down on groups targeting women'

LONDON: The deadly attacks in Paris by Islamic State (IS) militants demonstrate the need for world efforts to crack down on extremist groups that try to repress women and girls, a leading US women's rights official said yesterday.

Cathy Russell, the US ambassador-at-large for global women's issues, said Friday's suicide bombings and shootings in Paris that killed 129 people reinforced the need to escalate efforts to combat IS.

IS has claimed responsibility for Friday's co-ordinated attacks, saying they were in retaliation for France's involvement in US-backed airstrikes in Iraq and Syria.

"Women and girls have been a particular target for IS, just as they are for other groups that view progress of women as a threat," Russell told the Trust Women conference on women's rights and trafficking.

"That mindset and that evil cannot go unchecked any longer by the international community. We have to redouble our efforts.

It is time to reaffirm our commitment to equality

"It is time to reaffirm our commitment to equality and to women and girls everywhere," she said.

Recent reports of IS's sexual enslaving of women and girls as young as 11 have provoked international outrage, while the group has defended its practice of slavery and rape.

The treatment of women within the hardline group has also come under scrutiny.

An English translation of an IS women's manifesto released earlier this year said women must stay behind closed doors and leave the house only in exceptional circumstances.

At the opening of the two-day Trust Women conference, Russell said it was unacceptable that such groups were allowed to threaten women and deny them education, jobs and economic empowerment.

Data shows that 60 million girls internationally are out of school. One in three women globally will face gender-based violence in their lifetime.

Russell said it was critical women were given the opportunity to participate fully in a country's economy as that benefited their families and their country, and that started

ICC warns members on judicial independence

AMSTERDAM: Officials of the International Criminal Court (ICC) warned member states not to compromise judicial independence as Kenya began a renewed diplomatic push against charges faced by its deputy president.

Ahead of this week's ICC general assembly meeting, Kenya is rallying its African allies in support of rule changes that would disbar much of the evidence prosecutors are relying on to convict Deputy President William Ruto over post-election violence that killed 1 200 people.

The dispute risks driving a wedge between the European countries that largely finance the court and Africa, which provides a third of its members.

In a letter published on Monday by the website Journalists for Justice and confirmed as genuine by the court, the court's president, prosecutor and registrar said member states risked compromising the court's integrity.

ICC judges this year withdrew charges against Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, who, like Ruto, was accused of stoking ethnic violence after the 2007 presidential election. – Reuters