

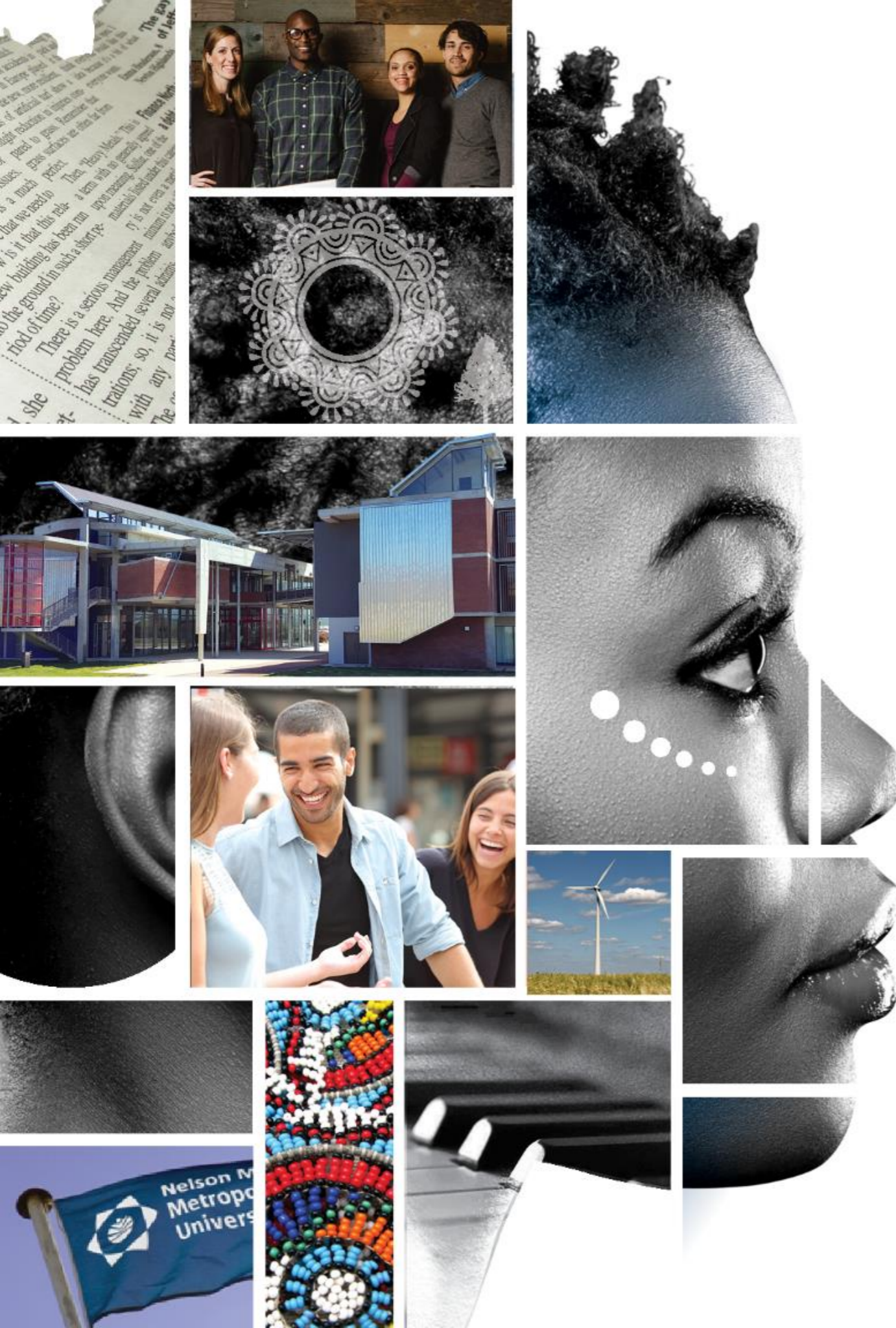


**Nelson Mandela  
Metropolitan  
University**

*for tomorrow*

**Update to faculties  
on current events**

**30 September 2016**





# Current context – national Fees Must Fall campaign

- The announcement of the Minister on fees for 2017 identified interim measures to assist academically deserving, financially needy students by:
  - Fully covering fees for students that qualify under the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS);
  - Subsidising the “missing middle” for the fee increase up to a maximum of 8%.
- Government and the Minister, along with the higher education sector, have emphasised that universities need the 8% fee increase to:
  - Mitigate rising national and international inflationary costs;
  - Broaden access; and
  - Sustain the provision of quality education.
- A fee increase will not impact negatively on the poor and “missing middle” students since the government will make up the difference of up to 8%.



# Current context – Fees Must Fall campaign at NMMU

- Until now, NMMU FMF students have been protesting peacefully. Unfortunately, this has impacted on the academic programme and resulted in time constraints in the 2016 academic calendar.
- Management has carefully considered its options and elected not to use force to resume academic activities since this has escalated tension and violence at other universities across the country.
- Management continues to engage constructively with various student formations in an effort to persuade them to advance their cause while continuing with academic activities.
- By Friday last week (23 September), management had received four different petitions from various student formations and provided a response to each of these late on Sunday (available on NMMU website).
- Despite management's best efforts to resume operations on Monday (26 September), the FMF student coalition was resolute in continuing their campaign for free higher education for all.



# Financial implications of Fees Must Fall at NMMU

The financial health and sustainability of NMMU is at stake, especially given the costs associated with:

- Down payment relief measures (R30m negative cash flow at end February 2016)
- Debt relief for academically deserving NSFAS qualified, unfunded students and “missing middle” (R21m)
- Assistance to zero Expected Family Contribution (EFC) students with a contribution towards books, food and accommodation (R25.4m)
- Accumulated fees debt (R198m as at 31 August 2016)
- Reintegration of outsourced services (R34.5m)

A forecast of the impact of a 0% increase for all students is that it will result in a cumulative operational deficit of R383 million from 2017 to 2019.



# NMMU response to Fees Must Fall demands

- We believe that the cause for widening access to quality higher education for academically-deserving poor and “missing middle” students is noble and just.
- We will continue to support national initiatives to call all sectors of society to invest more in higher education to ensure that universities can continue to provide quality teaching, research, and holistic support for all our students.
- We respect the right to protest peacefully, but equally respect the right of those who do not participate in such protests to continue with their studies.
- We are acutely aware that continued disruptions have wide-ranging implications for academic activities that will impact negatively on all stakeholders including staff and students.
- We have been strongly urging all student formations to assist us in returning to normal operations as a matter of urgency, while we engage in co-creating pragmatic and sustainable solutions to the arising demands through multi-stakeholder engagement platforms.
- We are assessing how the academic calendar can be extended in 2016 to complete the academic year.



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# Questions and comments?

