**Memorandum from the Parliamentary Office**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 3779**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 23/10/2015**

**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER 42 OF 2015)**

**Mr W M Madisha (Cope) to ask the Minister of Higher Education and Training:**

Whether his department held an urgent meeting with the leadership of the University of Fort Hare to discuss the decision of the specified university to exclude students who had defaulted on fee payments from writing their examinations at the end of the 2015 academic year; if not, why not; if so, (a) what was the outcome of the specified meeting and (b) why did the university wait until October to take such a decision?

**NW4521E**

**REPLY:**

No, the Department did not have a meeting with the leadership of the University of Fort Hare (UFH) to discuss the decision to exclude students who had defaulted on fee payments from writing their examinations at the end of the 2015 academic year. In terms of the Higher Education Act of 1997, Councils of universities are governing bodies and have the autonomy to decide on university governance matters, including settling of fees. Councils are the highest decision making bodies of our respective universities. There was no request from UFH for intervention by the Department. The matter is still being handled by UFH’s internal structures.

Compiler/Contact persons:

Ext:

DIRECTOR – GENERAL

STATUS:

DATE:

REPLY TO QUESTION 3779 APPROVED/NOT APPROVED/AMENDED

Dr BE NZIMANDE, MP

MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

STATUS:

DATE: