

UCT COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2024 – DONOR NOMINEE



DIANNA YACH

DONOR NOMINATORS

- Professor Ntobeko Ntusi
- Emeritus Professor Valerie Mizrahi
- Mr Ezra Davids

STATEMENT OF INTENT

“...to be of service; pursuing social justice is an obligation, not a choice...”

I was privileged to be given the opportunity to study law at the University of Cape Town. UCT challenged my thinking, enhancing my commitment to equality, social justice, and social cohesion. I want young talented students to have similar opportunities.

I am passionately committed to growing the next generation of ethical leaders. As a leading university in Africa with global influence, UCT can do more in this space.

UCT has been deeply affected by governance challenges – rebuilding relationships will be key for the incoming Council. I believe I can provide continuity between the present and new council members, continuing efforts to strengthen Council’s ability to provide robust, independent strategic oversight of the University. I have a track record in working with others to navigate challenging environments with compassion and determination always acting in the best interests of the respective institutions.

Finally, I believe UCT needs to redouble efforts to link the academy with communities, to facilitate effective resolution of pressing global, regional and local problems. I want to continue to participate in this important journey.

BRIEF CURRICULUM VITAE

Dianna's ethos is "to be of service; pursuing social justice is an obligation not a choice..."

Dianna chairs the Mauerberger Foundation Fund (MFF), an NPO – founded by her grandfather, Morris Mauerberger in 1936 – that supports community based and higher education institutions in the Western Province and Israel–Palestine. The MFF seeks to advance human rights and social justice by supporting ethical leaders in the arts and heritage, health, education, sustainable environment, and welfare.

Dianna is a proud UCT alumna, passionately committed to equality, human rights and social justice. After graduating from UCT with a BA and LLB, she was admitted to the SA High Court as an advocate and obtained an LLM from the University of London. She is an accredited mediator and fellow of the Chartered Institute of People Development (UK).

Dianna is a member of UCT's Council and serves as interim chair of the Human Resources Committee, chair of the Irma Stern Museum Committee and is a member of the Naming and Finance committees.

Dianna continues to play an active role in UCT alumni affairs. She was chair of the Alumni Association and supported transitional arrangements when the Alumni Association merged with Convocation in 2022. She serves on the Law Faculty's Law Clinic Advisory Board and Alumni and Development Board.

She is presently a trustee of ORT SA Cape, an NGO focusing on the training and support of teachers in disadvantaged communities in the Western Cape; and serves as a trustee of the Cape Jewish Welfare Trust.

She is a former member of Cape Peninsula University of Technology Council.

Whilst living in London (before returning to Cape Town in 2013), she founded a niche consultancy, Ionann, working with clients in the public, higher education, private and community sectors to translate equality, diversity, and human rights into practice: going beyond legal compliance to enacting the spirit of transformation. She was also trustee of the Camden Citizens Advice, chair of the Camden Race Equality Council and a founder member of Scotland Yard's Racial and Violent Crime Taskforce. She has considerable experience as a consultant and educator and worked with clients to accelerate democratic policing and human rights in Northern Ireland, Ireland, the UK, and 11 African countries.

In the lead up to South Africa's first democratic elections, working with colleagues at the University of the Western Cape, Dianna chaired a multinational panel on peacekeeping and a multinational panel on transformation of the South African Police Service. She was a member of the Commonwealth Observer Group during the 1994 elections.

Dianna swims a mile a day whatever the weather!