



UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND

RESTRUCTURED FOR RELEVANCE

CONVOCAATION REPORT



CONVOCAATION EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2016 -2019

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Convocation of the University of Zululand held at the Bhekuzulu Hall at KwaDlangezwa Campus on Saturday, 15 October 2016 at 13:00

1. OPENING

1.1 Welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

1.2 Attendance and Quorum

One hundred and sixty four (164) members attended the meeting. The Registrar confirmed that the meeting did quorate

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No interests were declared by members present

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

Members present requested the Registrar to address certain issues, prior to the confirmation of the agenda. The issues included:

- Statutory requirements related to the Convocation;
- The voting process; and
- The quorum for the meeting.

The agenda was confirmed without amendments after the address by the Registrar.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was recorded that previous minutes of the AGM was not available, since the University was under administration at the time of the AGM and the Administrator had the minutes.

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

6. ADDRESS BY THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

The outgoing President of the Convocation, Mr Makhathini addressed the convocation. He informed the members present that his address would be submitted to the University for Publication on the university's website.

7. NEW MATTERS

7.1 Election

The Registrar explained the election process to the members present. It was explained that voting would take place by closed ballot.

The names and photos of the nominated candidates for the positions of President and Deputy President of the Convocation were displayed to members. Each member was allowed to vote for the candidate of choice. Votes were placed in sealed voting boxes.

The votes were counted and the outcome was communicated to the meeting.

7.1.1 President of the Convocation

Mr Nhlakanipho Nkwanyana was duly elected as the new President of the Convocation. No objections were raised and Mr Nkwanyana was officially declared as the new President of the Convocation.

The meeting was informed that Mr Nkwanyana will be a member of the University Council, as per the provisions of clause 18 of the Institutional Statute.

7.1.2 Deputy President of the Convocation

Mr Siyathokoza Mchunu was duly elected as the Deputy President of the Convocation. No objections were raised and Mr Mchunu was officially declared as the new Deputy President of the Convocation

7.1.3 Secretary of the Convocation

The members present were requested to nominate candidates for the election as Secretary of the Convocation. Three names were submitted. Members present elected Mr Sizwe Zwane as the Secretary of the Convocation. No objections were raised and Mr Zwane was officially declared as the new Secretary of the Convocation.

7.1.4 Two Executive members of the Convocation

The members present elected Ms Zamile Gwala and Mr Mlokothwa Ndimande as the two executive members of the Convocation. No objections were raised and Ms Gwala and Mr Ndimande were officially declared as the two additional executive members of the Convocation

8. ADDRESS BY INCOMING PRESIDENT

The newly elected President of the Convocation thanked the members for attending the Annual General meeting. He indicated that the Executive will immediately address matters of concern, commencing with the task of restoring the damage caused to the reputation of the university.

9. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was indicated that the date of the next AGM will be determined and communicated to members as per the provisions of the institutional statute

10. CLOSURE

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chairperson thanked everyone for their input and closed the meeting at 18H00

APPROVED

Chairperson: _____ Date: _____



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AGENDA

Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the CONVOCATION to be held
at King Bhekuzulu-Hall, KwaDlangezwa Campus on
27 March 2019 at 11H00

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | OPENING & WELCOME | Registrar/
Secretary |
| 1.1 | Attendance Register | |
| 1.2 | Quorum | |
| 1.3 | Confirmation of Agenda | |
| 2. | APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING | President |
| 3. | NEW MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION | |
| 3.1 | Address by the outgoing President of the Convocation | President |
| 3.2 | Elections | Registrar |
| 3.2.1 | President of the Convocation | |
| 3.2.2 | Vice-President of the Convocation | |
| 3.2.3 | Secretary | |
| 3.2.4 | Two Executive Officials | |
| | Representative to Council | |
| 4. | ADDRESS BY NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT | |
| 5. | DATE OF NEXT MEETING | |
| 6. | CLOSURE | |

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

1. BACKGROUND STATEMENT

The University of Zululand Convocation is a structure of governance tasked with statutory functions as prescribed in the institutional statute; “facilitate liaison between the university and its former students and academic employees, create networks and canvass support for the strategic objectives of the university and organize former students together with academic employees of the university with a view of facilitating representation of this constituency on appropriate governance structures”.

The Convocation Executive Committee assumed office in October 2016 when the university was engulfed by numerous challenges; ranging from the degree for sale scandal, disunity between management and the workers, students’ protests, vandalism of property, negative media coverage, vacant chancellor position, high fees for Postgraduate students, poor relations with stakeholders, non-awarding of honorary Doctoral degrees to esteemed members of the public and inheriting an inactive Convocation structure.

The CONVEX adopted a responsive program of action which was aimed at restoring the image of the University of Zululand. The position of CONVEX on the short term challenges that faced the university was that of working with all conflicting parties with a view of finding an amicable solution.

Hereunder the intervention of CONVEX:

Degree for sale scandal

The executive met with the university leadership, professional bodies; South African Council for Educators (SACE) and the Council on Higher Education (CHE). The intervention of the university in putting control measures in the issuing of qualifications and dealing with individuals who were implicated in this saga brought hope in the restoration pathway of UNIZULU.

Disunity between workers and the management

The university management was persuaded to open a platform for workers

to air their concerns. We are pleased with the progress made in this regard. The election of the Convocation President as Chairperson of the Human Resources committee allows CONVEX to be able to intervene in critical issues that affect the personnel of the university. The CONVEX also met with the Deans of faculties and came up with collaborative programs that will take the university forward; progress made in implementation of the resolutions is pleasing.

Students' Protest and vandalism

The executive has been working close with student leadership. We unapologetically communicated our views on violence and destruction of property during protests.

Vacant Chancellor Position

In 2016 the CONVEX prioritized the issue of the vacant chancellor position. It was our considered view that the Chancellor is the face of any institution. We are more proud to have initiated this process and engaged various stakeholders including university's council. We are pleased to inform the convocation membership that the process was successfully completed with the appointment of the Deputy Chief Justice Andrew Zondo.

High fees for Postgraduates and shortage of funding

The ongoing challenge of funding for postgraduates received urgent attention from CONVEX. We have been working closely with different executive committees of the Postgraduates' Association during our term of office. The challenges facing postgraduates were tabled at council and other stakeholders such as UZ foundation. The CONVEX tabled a motion for the waiving of registration fees for postgraduates and it was adopted by all stakeholders in the university. The challenges on NRF were discussed with the then Minister of Science and Technology Ms Naledi Pandor; a meeting that was attended by the President and Secretary General. The CONVEX further called for the establishment of the ALUMNI fund which is an initiative that seeks to canvass for financial support that will be aimed at assisting Postgraduates, needy students and other strategic programs of the university.

Honorary Doctoral degrees

The CONVEX persuaded the university to revive culture of awarding honorary doctoral degrees to esteemed members of the public. The motion was adopted by council and the first recipient was King Goodwill Zwelithini. We are pleased that the relations between the university and the Zulu Kingdom have been revived. This initiative will see UNIZULU playing an important role of acknowledging excellence in the country.

Inheritance an inactive structure

The current CONVEX inherited a structure that lacked a number of basic and fundamental aspects. The first challenge was the lack of understanding the role of convocation within university structures. The absence of previous minutes, POA documents, statements made it difficult to establish the vision of the institution in this regard. This document will serve as a guide for the incoming CONVEX to build on.

The executive noted the need to benchmark with established institutions in order to fully understand the role of Convocation members in the life of the university. The President of Convocation visited Wits University and the University of Johannesburg together with the Director of the Communications and Marketing Division. It was established that there were good practices to emulate from these universities. The process has started in this regard to restructure the structure of Convocation and its work.

The CONVEX, in this term of office laid a solid foundation by formulating the strategic planning document which includes topical issues of the university. The executives has also been able to draft the convocation constitution working together with the office of the registrar. The process to adopt the constitution is under way.

The statements communicating the resolutions of CONVEX have been attached for convocation members.

Thank you for entrusting this collective with responsibility to lead!

Message From the Vice-Chancellor

The University of Zululand has a long and illustrious history as South Africa's legacy institution that has stood the test of times and is one of the few that were not affected by the mergers post 1994 era but was transformed. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all as you embark on a return journey to your Alma Mater as distinguished Convocants and Alumnus. Your academic journey has defined your career path and it will be a strong link as you will be recognized as the UNIZULU graduates throughout your life, therefore it is important to carry the name of the institution to greater heights and be of good and noble causes. You are a unique and talented mix of graduates who have come to join us from every corner of the country. We are all happy and excited to receive you on your home-coming journey as elders of this great family called UNIZULU.

This University is amongst the historical rich and most relevant institutions this mother land has ever had. Her rich history can be traced back to the early 1960's. Many personalities with high repute have passed through this institution and left a mark. I believe that you will continue in the embarked mission that will definitely leave a mark of Excellency.

The University's Vision **"A leading comprehensive University providing quality education"** is achieved through training and producing disciplined and qualified people in all 4 Faculties. We are committed to quality delivery of service by being prompt, transparent and accountable in all our undertakings in line with Good Corporate Governance. Throughout South Africa's rich and diverse history UNIZULU has been steadfast in its assertion of its mandate to provide a quality education to its students, irrespective of circumstances. This commitment has ensured that even in the most turbulent times, the Institution has been a steady and stable beacon of opportunity and hope. As a result, UNIZULU has amongst its alumni some of the worlds' most iconic figures, including our esteemed former President Nelson Mandela and HIS Imperial Majesty, King Goodwill kaZwelithini.

Convocation plays an important role in helping to shape the future of the University. This importance is reflected in its representation on the

governance structures of the University. This structure has an important role to play in promoting and maintaining a positive image of the University and engaging in fund-raising activities for the University.

In terms of the Institutional Statute, Convocation is represented on the University Council, and as such has a role to play in ensuring that the University is working in the best interests of the public, and more specifically the stakeholders who are served by the University, including current and former students.

We congratulate the members in the previous term of office under the presidential wing of Mr Nkwanyana, we also welcome new members who will be elected today and wish them all wisdom that will enable them towards enlightenment.

My Unizulu, Your Unizulu, Our UNIZULU

CONVEX STATEMENTS

For immediate release

RE: UPDATE

The University of Zululand convocation executive committee successfully held a strategic planning meeting from the 10th - 12th of March 2017. The primary objective was to consolidate the programme and align it with our vision of restoring the image of our alma mater. It was also aimed at creating a platform to critically engage with various stakeholders on numerous issues affecting the institution.

In terms of the statute of the University of Zululand, the convocation executive committee is mandated to perform certain functions which include but not limited to (i) “facilitating liaison between the University and its former students and academic employees” (ii) “creating networks and canvass support for strategic objectives of the university and (iii) “organize former students and academic staff members of the University with a view of facilitating representation of this constituency on appropriate governance structures.” We are dedicating our energies towards fulfilling these functions.

It must be noted that this convocation executive does not carry any political mandate but rather remains accountable to its constituency. A responsive programme of action supremely aimed at changing the face of the University is in place. Nonetheless, it cannot be detailed at this juncture as there are ongoing engagements with relevant stakeholders in this specific regard.

Fundraising:

We will be embarking on an intensive fundraising programme with an intention of canvassing financial support for the University of Zululand students, especially postgraduates. The institution will be persuaded to reasonably reduce the fees for postgraduate courses so as to enable and empower more black South Africans to enroll at postgraduate level. The ALUMNI FUND will be established in this regard. Convocants and all stakeholders are encouraged to support this initiative.

Symposiums

As part of strengthening relations with academic employees, the executive will be collaboratively working with faculties to create platforms for undergraduates and postgraduates to interact with UNIZULU Alumni and academic leaders in high positions of governance and research institutions. Through such initiatives we also intend to inculcate the culture of research and thus contribute towards an improved research output of our institution.

Unemployed graduates

We are mindful of the fact that our own brothers and sisters are not exempted from the prevalent challenge of unemployment in our country. It has been noted that even Social workers and Educators have substantial difficulty securing employment. The limited job opportunities have forced graduates from other faculties to opt for PGCE.

As much as we will be creating a database of unemployed graduates and thus aligning with their potential employers, we shall be emphasizing upon the need for our fellow alumni to consider becoming entrepreneurs. Various stakeholders are engaged in order to entrepreneurially empower our fellow alumni.

Alumni branches

The executive will be inviting convocants in all provinces to contribute positively towards the development of the University. There will be no launching of local branches at this point in time. There will be provincial branches that will forward concerns of graduates in their respective provinces and also assist in bringing strategic partners to the institution. Those in a position to contribute will be encouraged to contribute towards the alumni fund.

Other relevant matters.

The executive deliberated and resolved on the following:

1. The University must appoint a new chancellor as a matter of urgency
2. The University must centralize applications of first year students in line with its progressive online registration initiative.

3. The university must review the relevance of some programs and revive those that were discontinued
4. We supported the initiative of creating a platform for all stakeholders to air their views so as to avoid media spats that have significantly undermined the credibility of the university.

The executive would like to thank all stakeholders for the support given thus far. We are humbled by some of the submissions from fellow convocants. It brings hope to know that there are people in society who are living outside the cocoon of political differences. You are encouraged to make written submissions to the Secretary General of Convocation.

Issued by
Convocation Executive Committee

Released by the Secretary General, Mr. Sizwe Zwane

Email address: sizwe.zwane@ehs.org.za

Statement of the University of Zululand Convocation Executive

The Convocation Executive would like to expressly communicate thanks to all UNIZULU convocants, who showed substantial interest in the affairs of their university through participation in the AGM which was held on the 15th of October 2016. This was evidently indicative of their significant consciousness of an enduringly committed relationship they have with their alma mater.

It emerged that the common narrative which informed their preference of leaders, was an eminent desire to contribute towards the restoration and preservation of the image of UNIZULU. The strong need to restore the image of UNIZULU and emphases thereof, ensued a critical period during which the University of Zululand was substantially embattled with numerous challenges.

We are aware of the mammoth task ahead of bringing the university to its former glory and thus accept our primary responsibility of collaboratively and closely working with all the relevant stakeholders in canvassing support for the betterment of UNIZULU. The executive met in November with an aim of deliberating on a number of issues affecting the university. Hereunder the highlights of the meeting:

Degree-for-sale scandal

We strongly believe that this cloud hanging above the name of the institution with regards to this issue will undermine all efforts towards the restoration of the image of UNIZULU. We have prioritized this issue as it also compromise the CVs of all convocants. It was very encouraging to learn that the university had been hard at work on this particular issue. Resultantly, the university took rigorous steps against those who were found to have made false claims with regards to their qualifications. This falsified the questionable incrimination of the university in this regard. It also reminds us of the importance of engaging in discussions as a way of getting informed perspectives.

The executive calls on the Minister for Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs, to verify all qualifications of UNIZULU graduates in all municipalities implicated in the media reports in particular in KwaZulu-Natal. We further request members of the public to inform the University of Academic Tsotsis who are parading themselves as UNIZULU graduates. The executive welcomes the intervention from the South African Council of Educators (SACE) working together with university in identifying those who with fake qualifications. Our message to those individuals, is that they must resign with immediate effect and hand themselves to the police.

NEHAWU Strike and fees must fall campaign

On the issue of the employees' strike, we would like to remind all the parties concerned of a great deal of interdependence between the management and staff members. Just like in any other institution, employees' strikes are inevitable. It thus remains critical that the bargaining engagements take place in good faith so as to reach an accommodative consensus. Although there was a lot of damage that resulted from the recent dispute, we are optimistic that parties will reflect upon it and thus devise an amicable responsive strategy going forward.

We would also like to commend the University of Zululand student community for being cooperative when the academic activities resumed. They did so in spite of the demonstrations which were hampering academic processes in other institutions. This tells us something about their capacity to look at issues in their own context and thus consider ramifications of their actions. This was a sign of maturity we saw as the University of Zululand conducting exams without any disturbances. It is our considered view that issue of university fees must be debated rigorously as it affect most people in the general, particularly the poor majority.

The executive strongly believe that a zero fee increase for 2017 is the amicable and reasonable measure as the government is still conducting its study. We are also mindful of the fact that an institution cannot operate without any source of funding. Thus the executive will work tirelessly with various stakeholders in gathering funds for needy students.

Program of Action

The institution is faced with many challenges which continue to hold back its progress towards being a modern university in the democratic dispensation. We cannot move away from the harsh reality that the world is evolving with regards to economic dynamics, technology and research. It is high time for the university to revisit the entire academic program so as to remain an institution that is indeed restructured for relevance.

Given all these considerations, ours was to then formulate a progressive programme of action. All alumni of UNIZULU are invited to come with their diverse skills and participate in this inclusive process. We have taken a decision to prioritize fundraising for the university. We are also aware of the lack of sufficient funding for postgraduate studies. This is a significant hindrance to our objective of helping black Africans who come from previously disadvantaged backgrounds, to become knowledgeable academics and researchers too. We have also taken cognizance of the overall postgraduate enrolment as well as the research output. We have also critically looked into the ways in which we may help the graduates to do well during job interviews, and possible contributing factors towards poor performances in this regard. This proves that there is a lot that needs to be.

The executive will in due course; communicate formally its program of action to all convocants. Changing the image of the institution requires collaboration and change of our attitude towards ourselves.

The convocation executive committee wishes you a safe, restful festive season.

Nhlakanipho Lawrence Nkwanyana, President.

Queries must be communicated to:

Sizwe Zwane, Secretary General.

Email address: sizwedzwane@gmail.com

STATEMENT OF UNIZULU CONVOCATION ON THE ELECTION OF ITS PRESIDENT TO VARIOUS STRATEGIC POSITIONS IN THE UNIVERSITY.

The University of Zululand Convocation Executive Committee welcomes the election of its President as a member of the Council Executive, Chairperson of Human Resource Committee and member of the Finance Committee. This move will go a long way in influencing decision making towards driving the institution's transformational agenda tabled by the Convocation.

The Convocation executive has long been calling for total renewal in the key spheres of the university. Consequently, progress is slowly made in transforming the institution's academic enterprise; with the introduction of Accounting Science, accreditation of Law degrees, reviewed Social work, Education qualifications and the imminent introduction of Engineering courses.

The Convocation will continue working collaboratively with all stakeholders so as to address challenges facing the university. We will continue working hard towards full realization of free education. The waiving of registration fees for Postgraduates in 2018 was a huge step taken towards achieving this goal.

As part of assisting students financially, UNIZULU Convocation will be hosting a fundraising Gala dinner for all Alumni; pertinent details to be communicated by the University's Communication and Marketing Division.

Congratulations Myikwe

UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND CONVOCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT

This comprehensive statement is aimed at communicating the results of our collaborative efforts and reflections on progress made thus far. During the 2017 academic year we engaged in numerous activities with a primary objective of redefining the University of Zululand convocation's role as an integral stakeholder of the institution.

It has been a year since we accepted the entrustment with this exciting responsibility, and we are proud to have contributed towards restoring the image of the University of Zululand. To be afforded an opportunity to effectively play our role, by our stakeholders, has always been central and quite invigorating. Our core functions as per the provision of the statute, have always informed our approach to any activities and engagements. These functions include facilitating liaison between the University and its former students and academic employees, creating networks and canvassing support for the strategic objectives of the University, and organizing former students and academic staff members of the University with a view of facilitating representation of this constituency on appropriate governance structures. We have however noted, with great concern, that a very serious misunderstanding of our core functions was alarmingly prevalent amongst some of our stakeholders and elements of our constituency. This has resulted in some of the functions being questionably executed by the Communications Division of the University, especially the one of facilitating liaison between the University and its former students. It also appears that this has been a case for a very long time. Nonetheless, engagements with a view to addressing this issue are progressively continuing. Moreover, whilst we entirely appreciate the support and numerous suggestions from some of the elements of our constituency, we would like to indicate that we represent the broader alumni community of the University of Zululand. There are certain programs that are within the scope of the Postgraduate society and SRC. We will continue collaboratively working with all our stakeholders and making recommendations whenever necessary.

In keeping with our statutory mandate, we have had numerous engagements with a variety of stakeholders and have made numerous recommendations to the management and council of the University of Zululand. We have forged links with new stakeholders, with an aim of canvassing requisite support for the pursuit of the strategic objectives of the University of Zululand. We are indeed pleased that our recommendations and proposals have, hitherto, resonated amongst the executive management, other stakeholders, and council members of the University of Zululand. Their collective responsiveness and successes have conveyed a very clear message that there is indeed a sense of hope and direction.

We note the following issues and successes:

THE CORE BUSINESS AND CREATING A QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Upon frequent and consistent engagements with the executive management of the University of Zululand, we have ascertained that the management has consistently emphasized their commitment to ensuring that teaching and learning practices are at the very Centre of the academic enterprise at the University of Zululand. We are elated at the drive and a clear plan to promote the development of the University's teaching and learning proficiency and quality, with more emphases and a strong focus on ICT enhanced teaching; scholarship of teaching and learning; the first-year experience; general student support, the pedagogical development of its staff; clearing of uncredited programmes; partnerships and collaborations; curriculum transformation; and community engagement. The University management is hard at work in ensuring that the issues of low retention, success and throughput rates are rigorously addressed. The establishment of a Faculty of Law as well as the achievement of SAICA accreditation remain key areas and there is evidence pointing towards successes in these regards. It is also refreshing that they endeavor to ensure that, in the foreseeable future, they incorporate a B. Com Accounting Science and a wide range of Engineering courses into the University's broader spectrum of offerings; Medicine related offerings are also not exempted.

We are also pleased to confirm that the University offerings are now aligned to the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework. We were

also impressed with the way in which the online registration was managed this year. We have since made recommendations in this regard, that they build upon this well laid foundation and also align applications for first year students to such.

In regards to the topical matter of the accreditation of the University's LLB accreditation, we confirm and appreciate the fact that the University of Zululand has given this matter a requisite attention and it has been ideally prioritized. The indication that there was an intention to withdraw accreditation was premised on a number of factors including infrastructure. We are happy that the university has an improvement plan in place which encompasses frequent monitoring and evaluation until the next re-evaluation date. We shall also ensure that we also effectively contribute towards such an improvement plan.

ENHANCING RESEARCH & INNOVATION AND POSTGRADUATE ENROLMENT

We have strongly emphasized on the significance of increasing the postgraduate enrolments, improving the research output, enhancing human capacity for supervision purposes, enhancing the experience of postgraduates, revitalizing community engagement, and embracing innovation in approach to research. We have engaged with the Minister of Science and Technology, the Honourable N. Pandor in this regard. The Minister made a commitment that they will collaborate with the University of Zululand in ensuring efficiency where responsive and innovative research is concerned, particularly with a view to identifying research niche areas in the surrounding community. The focus would also be on embracing innovation in improving the indigenous knowledge systems in the neighboring communities.

We are also pleased that the management has since established a very comprehensive research plan (2016-2018). This restructured plan seeks to enhance the experiences of academic staff and postgraduate students. In line with our recommendation as convocation, the plan also entails significant developmental opportunities for junior academics, improvement plans for the qualification of all staff, and specific targets to increase the research output of the university.

We also strongly recommended that the fees for postgraduate enrolments be revisited with a view to reducing them. The management has since embarked on a fee-waiver benchmarking process and we are quite optimistic that during 2018 we will get a favourable response.

On the issue of the teaching and learning Centre for postgraduates, where postgraduates could conduct their research and have access to necessary resources; we commend the University management for synthesizing a feasible plan in this regard and the results will be seen very soon.

UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND THROUGHPUT

We commend the employees and management of the University of Zululand, for ensuring a conducive environment for teaching and learning. We further applaud them for continuing with robust engagements in a direction of ensuring synergy amongst the employees and management. We believe that it is as a result of their collaborative effort that the University has a current pass rate of 79% across its all four academic faculties. This is a substantial achievement and we construe this as being reflective of good governance.

CHANCELLORSHIP

We recommended, on the basis that it had been too long that the University did not have a chancellor, that this matter be urgently dealt with; and consequently, the process of appointing a new chancellor is underway. We are optimistic about progress in this regard.

HONORARY AWARDS

We noted that the University of Zululand had not given such awards in a very long while, and as such we recommended that resumption be considered in this regard. We are quite elated that as from 2018 there is an honorary award that will be duly presented.

REVITALIZING RELATIONS WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY

We note that the University of Zululand chiefly enrolls students who are coming from the Zululand region and the other parts of KZN, where the King of the Zulu nation lives and reigns. We only found it fit that we recommend that the University refurbishes its relationship with his Majesty. We are

happy with progress in this regard and are confident that more results will be evident very soon.

FUNDRAISING

As we have indicated, on numerous occasions, that fundraising remains our top priority; we hereby confirm that there is reasonable progress thus far. Moreover, due to the fact that the UNIZULU Alumni fund was non-existent before and its being introduced for the first time under the University of Zululand; we have had to make a number of considerations and embark on a critical fiduciary control process. We remain compliant with all the legal processes as we establish this significant foundation. We shall accordingly apprise our stakeholders and constituency once it's all systems go in this regard.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Convocation Executive Committee is satisfied with the degree of progress towards achieving the common objectives. We are hopeful that the current management of the University shall continue engaging with all the relevant stakeholders for quality assurance purposes.

We wish all you a very peaceful festive season and a great year ahead.

Issued by the UNIZULU Convocation Executive Committee
August 18, 2017

UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND CONVOCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S

STATEMENT ON THE UNIZULU ALUMNI FUND

We are pleased to announce that the long overdue alumni fund has finally been established. In partnership with the UNIZULU foundation, the executive committee has created a separate account which is primarily aimed at providing reasonable financial support to academically deserving and needy students (both undergraduates and postgraduates).

Noteworthy, there reportedly are no traceable funds raised by previous executive committees; and consequently the account has a zero balance at this stage. The executive had planned on staging a fundraising gala dinner to launch this fund. Nevertheless, we have opted for a more cost effective fundraising method. This method shall be monitored and evaluated accordingly, and as such, if warranted the fundraising gala dinner shall certainly be staged.

We therefore urge all stakeholders including convocants of the University of Zululand, people in the private and public sectors, and civil society to rally behind this idea through financial contributions. Members of the executive will lead the way by contributing first to this fund. Employed and self-employed convocants are thus hereby challenged to give back to the institution by donating at least R 100s to this fund. As part of promoting this fund, the executive committee will also launch a "PROUD UNIZULU GRADUATE FRIDAY" campaign. In this regard, all convocants who would have made substantial contributions to the fund will be presented with the University of Zululand embroidered blazers to wear in their respective work settings on Fridays. There also are going to be varied gifts to be given to all those who would have contributed.

Over and above numerous roadshows to take place, various methods and platforms are being utilized to effectively apprise our stakeholders regarding this clarion call; through which we hope to elicit a favourable response.

Indeed, it takes a village to raise a child.

Hereunder are the details of the account:

Account number : 52165778105 (Cheque account)

Bank name : First National Bank

Reference : UNIZULU ALUMNI FUND

For more information kindly contact the Secretary General (Sizwe Zwane) and President (Nhlakanipho Nkwanyana) on:

szwe.zwane@ehs.org.za and nlmyikwe@gmail.com, respectively

Nhlakanipho Dumingwe Nkwanyana Siyathokoza Macingwane Mchunu
Zamile Lioness Gwala Sandiso Ndimande

UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND CONVOCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (HEREAFTER REFERRED TO AS CONVEX)

YEAR END STATEMENT

The University of Zululand CONVEX extends warm greetings to its constituency (as set out in the statute of the pertinent university) and stakeholders.

As we conclude the 2018 academic year, CONVEX found it warranted that there be relevant reflections, with a view to effectively updating its constituency, on the journey in terms of the pursuit of its strategic map up to this juncture. The crux of the CONVEX's strategic objectives remains making considerable contributions and canvassing support towards improving the image of and thus propelling the University to new frontiers especially when it comes to its academic enterprise (the nucleus of the university).

During 2016, CONVEX identified different areas of concern and subsequently made recommendations to council and executive management, these entailed appropriate responsive strategies. CONVEX appreciates the seriousness and urgency with which its recommendations were received and actualized respectively. Consequently, the university now has a Chancellor who was duly inaugurated this year, the university has revived the culture of awarding honorary degrees, there are ongoing engagements around effective ways of ensuring sustainable synergy between staff and leadership, there has been a notable success in regards to the waiving of registration fees for postgraduates (In 2018, the doors of learning were opened to Postgraduates ensuing the successful implementation of the fee waiver policy. Some postgraduates were able to register without paying any registration fees.

We are optimistic that there shall be improvements and consistency in this regard), the negative media publicity phenomenon is being rigorously addressed and there has been a palpable decline in this regard (open engagements and awareness campaigns have been central in this regard),

there is a consensus that the university research output must be increased and there are notable achievements in this regard, there are successes made with regards to the development of academics and enhancement of the teaching and learning scholarship, there are successes in regards to recruiting and retaining a qualified cohort of academics, there's a considerable increase in terms of the academic staff with PhDs (12 academic staff have graduated with PhDs in 2018 academic year alone), there has been an effective development and entrenchment of an appropriate institutional academic philosophy and approach which integrates teaching and learning; research and community engagement, there are notable efforts made towards ensuring that there is a charter aimed at guiding relations between the university and its students, there is a development of an ICT strategy through which the needs of the university and issues of ICT competence among academic staff are going to be attended to, there has been a significant revival of a progressive academic culture among the academic staff which is evident in improved quantity and quality with regards to academic publications and participation in symposia, there is an ongoing initiative on curriculum renewal and development, there has been re-accreditation of critical courses including LLB and Accounting, there is progress towards securing accreditation for Psychology programs and other courses, and there are notable successes towards introducing accredited Engineering courses.

It is indeed invigorating to note that CONVEX has been given space and requisite recognition among Convocation stakeholders. Convex understands that the process of transformation is lengthy and that it tends to be characterized by interminable challenges, but is happy with the necessary steps taken in the right direction.

There are Convocants who from time to time make recommendations for CONVEX to take cognizance of. Convex appreciates those and also reminds its entire constituency that from the onset, CONVEX indicated that it would create an enabling environment for all convocants to make contributions towards working on the image of our alma mater.

CONVEX notes its efficient representation by President, Nlakanipho Nkwanyana, in the Council of the University and on strategic committees of

Council. CONVEX will continue making recommendations in regards to the relevant policy development and management.

CONVEX has since met with various internal and external stakeholders in an attempt to fortify and forge links for the betterment of our alma mater. These include South African Council for Educators, Council for Higher Education, Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, the Department of Higher Education and Training, The Department of Science and Technology, National Lotteries Commission, various alumni who are leaders in both the public and private sector, the Zululand Foundation, Postgraduates' Association, SRC, and University's CMD.

Noteworthy, The Council for Higher Education cleared the University of Zululand of the maladministration allegations. Instead CHE communicated recommendations and commendations. There is an improvement plan that was co-created by both parties and there is notable progress in this regard. One of the functions of CONVEX, in terms of the statute, is to facilitate liaison between the University and various stakeholders. As a result, CONVEX has engaged with different stakeholders in order to canvass support for the strategic objectives of the institution. The much anticipated launch of the UNIZULU ALUMNI fund has been rescheduled for next year (the date will be confirmed). There are numerous considerations that have had to be made including pertinent fiduciary duties, since this would be the first of its kind. CONVEX continues to engage the broader alumni community so as to ensure success in this regard.

The 2019 academic year is dedicated to all convocants to contribute in every way possible towards the comprehensive growth of UNIZULU and total improvement of its image.

Convocants will be notified in times of the details pertaining to the meetings and events to be held and organized in 2019.

Convex wishes you all a splendid festive season and a prosperous new year

Issued by CONVEX

Approved by President and Secretary

UPDATE FROM THE UNIZULU CONVOCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

First, as the executive committee we would like to expressly communicate our appreciation to all convocants who showed huge interest in the affairs of our alma mater, the University of Zululand. Your participation in the AGM which was held on the 15th of October 2016, was evidently indicative of your conscious commitment to the wellbeing of the University.

At the meeting, it emerged that the common narrative which informed your choice of Convocation leaders was a conspicuous desire to contribute to the restoration and preservation of the good image of the University of Zululand. The strong need to restore the good image of the University and emphasis thereof came at a critical time when the University was facing numerous challenges. However, it is worth noting that these challenges were obnoxiously precipitated by the media and those who cooperated with the media stance in this regard. These challenges fundamentally included the alleged 'degrees -for- sale' scandal and an interminable labour strike. All these challenges significantly dented the University's image, fore functions and designated business operations.

In this regard, it is critical to emphatically indicate that although the University of Zululand has challenges to deal with, all other universities are not exempted from such challenges. In essence, the higher education environment in South Africa is really becoming too sophisticated. The issue around the university fees for an example, remains a critical and common concern to all of us. This challenge has seen the entire community joining students in their timeous call for free education.

It is the naked truth that this issue affects all of us as South Africans, even though in reality there could be variations in the extent to which it affects us as individuals. From our perspective, the education system is characterized by deep disparities as it remains less accommodative to those who come from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. This reality reminds us that universities such as the University of Zululand and other rural based universities, are greatly affected in this particular regard.

In light of this issue, we are fully aware of and thus accept our primary responsibility of collaboratively working with all relevant stakeholders in canvassing support for the betterment of UNIZUU. We also concede that UNIZULU needs more resources in order to continue efficiently accommodating students from disadvantaged backgrounds. We commit ourselves to contributing towards ensuring that an enabling environment is created for the University by inviting the private sector and all our alumni to come on board.

With regard to the aforementioned challenges which have admittedly dented the image of our alma mater, we call upon all stakeholders to take part in the process of ensuring a progressive preservation of the good image of UNIZULU. The denting of the image of UNIZULU directly impacts negatively on all of us and the onus remains upon us to restore the challenges we face. The University of Zululand remains an autonomous institution with its own capacity and internal processes. It is advisable that the University management must be given space to lead and necessary support to enable them to effectively address any matter of concern.

On one of the topical issues raised in the media which is the 'degrees -for- sale' scandal, it was very encouraging to learn that the University management had been hard at work on this particular issue. Resultantly, the University management has taken rigorous steps against those who were found to have made false claims with regard to their qualifications. This proved wrong the questionable incrimination of the management and claims that management was at fault regarding this matter. We have engaged the University management and thus reliably learned that they have engaged the media, particularly on this issue. However, there was no adequate media coverage bearing the management response. We would like to let it known that we have affirmed that the media has been alarmingly selective in their approach to deal with challenges facing universities. We thus remind all relevant stakeholders of the importance of engaging in constructive discussions as means of accessing informed and accurate perspectives as opposed to absorbing often misrepresented facts from the media.

While the University of Zululand is one of those institutions of higher learning implicated in these deleterious activities, this does not necessarily rule out the unavoidable reality that there are culprits who are trying by all means to undermine the integrity of the University. When fake banknotes were prevalent in South Africa as a practical example, the Reserve Bank was never implicated; yet banknotes were rapidly produced. It was a common understanding that there were culprits responsible for such. Surprisingly, when bogus qualifications are produced, the University management is incriminated.

Furthermore, the claims for this scandal were quite prevalent long before the appointment of the current University leadership. We can cite 2008 and other years as examples. Sadly, as stakeholders of UNIZULU we are the ones who tend to spread and irresponsibly validate these allegations without establishing facts. We therefore applaud the University management for having given this issue the attention it deserves and thereby addressing it rigorously.

On the issue of the labour strike, we would like to remind all the parties concerned of a great deal of interdependence between them as elements of the University. Just like in any other organisation industrial action remains inevitable. It thus remains critical that the bargaining engagements take place in good faith so as to reach an accommodative consensus. We are optimistic that both parties will reflect upon it and thus devise an amicable responsive strategy going forward.

With regard to the examination process, we commend the staff members and mostly the University of Zululand student community for being cooperative when the academic activities resumed. They did so in spite of the demonstrations which were hampering academic processes in other institutions. We have noted that the University of Zululand is amongst a few if not the only institution that has a peaceful and successful end of the year examinations. We commend the leadership of the student body, the University management and the University community for ensuring such a smooth examination process. We wish that the culture of robust engagements between the University management and students could

continue in future years to come. We urge students to continue applying their minds when dealing with student matters and avoid being fueled by any possible external forces.

We wish all final year and postgraduate students all the best in their future endeavors. We believe that you have what it takes to optimize your opportunities and that you have the capacity to handle possible challenges that you may face out there.

Given all these prominent considerations, ours was to then formulate a progressive programme of action. All alumni of UNIZULU are invited to come with their diverse skills and participate in this inclusive process. We have taken a decision to prioritize fundraising for the University. We are also aware of the lack of sufficient funding for postgraduate studies at the University. This is a significant hindrance to our objective of helping black Africans who come from previously disadvantaged backgrounds, to become knowledgeable academics and researchers too.

We have also taken cognizance of the overall postgraduate enrolments as well as the research output of the University. We have also critically looked into the employability of the UNIZULU graduates, the possible contributing factors towards the deficit in this regard, as well as the ways in which we may capacitate prospective graduates in order for them to become amenable to the employment opportunities. We have also considered different ways which could enable and empower UNIZULU graduates to become job creators as well.

The restoration of the good image of our institution requires collaboration, synergy and change of our attitude towards ourselves.

The UNIZULU Convocation Executive Committee wishes you a safe, restful festive season.

Issued by,
Nhlakanipho Lawrence Nkwanyana, President.
07 December 2016

THE UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND GRADUATES' CONFUSION ABOUT SACE AND ITS PROCESSES

It has come to our attention that some of the UNIZULU graduates have encountered encumbrances with SACE. It has been widely speculated that SACE does not accept applications from the University of Zululand graduates. We can cite the social media as one of the platforms through which these speculations have been spread.

Following robust engagements with SACE and the University of Zululand faculty of education Teaching Practice Unit, we are pleased to inform all the concerned graduates that SACE does not essentially have a problem with the University of Zululand graduates nor does it question their qualifications.

Furthermore, SACE is collaboratively working with the University of Zululand in expediting the process of applications as well as addressing the alleged 'degrees-for-sale' ordeal. At SACE they have taken a decision of verifying the qualifications of all universities before issuing certificates. After the verification process, SACE gives feedback to the applicants and thus proceed with the designated process. We urge all concerned parties to familiarise themselves with the content of the SACE statement that was issued on the 14th November 2016.

As UNIZULU convocation executive committee, we fully support this process of qualifications verification as it will be instrumental in the identification of those who hold bogus qualifications and thereby denting the image of UNIZULU. We therefore urge all the concerned graduates to ensure maximum cooperation in this regard.

Should there be any difficulties experienced beyond the one cited herein, we request that you apprise us accordingly.

Issued by
SIZWE ZWANE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNIZULU CONVOCATION

Vision 2025

UNIZULU ALUMNI FUND

“BRINGING HOPE TO GENERATIONS
TO COME”

1. BACKGROUND OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND

The University of Zululand is located at the northern part of KwaZulu-Natal, making it the only university in the North Coast region. The institution receives most of the students from areas such as Nongoma, uLundi, Jozini, Newcastle, Empangeni and other parts of the country including the African continent. The areas indicated here are mostly rural with serious social and economic challenges such as poverty, unemployment etc. The institution is thus faced with a backlog of applications for funding of study fees for new students, undergraduates and postgraduates.

UNIZULU has been producing graduates in the field of education, health, judiciary, arts, social development, sciences, commerce and administration. The convocation hold a strong view that without the University of Zululand the country cannot function properly as it is producing high number of teachers, nurses, social workers, lawyers and administrators; hence this institution must be supported to fulfil its mandate.

The university is on the growth path and is repositioning itself to be more relevant to society. The institution opt to be the best teaching and learning university with high research output, quality MATHS and Sciences teachers/graduates, excellence in academia/sports/culture.

2. PURPOSE OF THE ALUMNI FUND

The purpose of UNIZULU Alumni fund is to address key areas:

- To provide financial support for needy students who cannot access higher education through sustained partnership with the KZN Department of Education.
- Provide financial support for Postgraduates students who conduct research in areas of key interest
- Recruit Grade 12 learners with excellent results and direct them to fields that are classified as scarce skills
- Support students who excel in their studies and sports/culture
- Fund international student-exchange programs

- Provide skills development programs for surrounding communities. E.g. Computer study programme for youth and women of KwaDlangezwa community.

3. **ALUMNI PROGRAMS**

- a) Fundraising through contributions from alumni, business and gala dinners
- b) Symposiums for undergraduates, postgraduates and academic staff
- c) Unemployed graduates summits
- d) Public lectures to be addressed by UNIZULU graduates in various fields
- e) Annual commemoration of ONGOYE 1983 massacre
- f) Roadshows to launch and revive ALUMNI chapters locally and nationally



PRESIDENT:
Nhlakanipho Nkwayane



DEPUTY PRESIDENT:
Siyathokoza Mchunu



SECRETARY: Sizwe
Zwane



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



MEMBER: Zamile Gwala



MEMBER: Sandile Ndimande



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