



DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CONVOCATION HELD AT 9:00 ON 1 FEBRUARY 2020 IN THE EQUITAS AUDITORIUM, BLOEMFONTEIN CAMPUS

1. ADDRESS BY THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Prof JU Grobbelaar, outgoing President of the UFS Convocation, welcomed the members present. He gave a brief overview of his career at the UFS – first as a student, then as a staff member and lastly as the President of the Convocation.

He mentioned that he was leaving the UFS with a heavy heart after 55 years. He wished the institution, as well as the new President and Vice-President of the Convocation, all the best.

2. ADDRESS BY THE RECTOR AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

Prof FW Petersen, Rector and Vice-Chancellor of the UFS, thanked Prof Grobbelaar for his commitment to the UFS.

Prof Petersen mentioned that he had spent the past two and a half years since he had arrived at the UFS determining the blueprint that would take the institution further over the next five to ten years. The following guiding documents laid the foundation for implementation processes over the next few years:

- The Integrated Transformation Plan (ITP), with a focus on social justice.
- The Strategic Plan (developed from the ITP), an operational document with the focus on widening and accelerating the scope of transformation in the broader sense (moving to the next level).
- The seven Vice-Chancellor's projects, which would focus on the performance of academic staff.
- The establishment of the Institutional Multi-Stakeholder Group (IMG) – a group consisting of representatives of all stakeholders of the UFS, with the aim of bringing about a change in the institutional culture.
- The creation of the Institutional Risk Management Committee, which is responsible for the production of the Institutional Risk Register.

The incorporation of different voices had the aim of creating a different culture through engagement. This engagement should establish a new university citizenship, which would culminate in Project Caring. The vision was that Project Caring would ultimately yield a new set of values for the UFS.

Modern students were facing many challenges, including funding, accommodation, transport, violence and gender-based violence. The senior management of the UFS had to balance the challenges faced by students against the financial viability of the institution within the context of national and global economic challenges. Engagement was the foundation and starting point for creating a new culture and dealing with the challenges. The Convocation and the Kovsie Trust were playing a critical role in assisting the University in various areas.

In terms of staff, the Rector emphasised that all of the approximately 5000 UFS staff members (support services and academic staff) played a critical role in the success of the Academic Project.



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Staff were committed, but not unaffected by the challenges of modern-day higher education institutions.

The following staff and student achievements were highlighted:

- Students from the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences were part of a group of students from across the world who were studying at one of the top universities in China.
- Students from the UFS were part of a three-way programme with the University of California in Los Angeles and the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam.
- A new state-of-the-art laboratory had been launched by the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.
- Students were performing well in sports such as netball, rugby, soccer and hockey, as well as at cultural level.

In 2020 and onwards, the UFS would like to focus on its visibility and impact. Six departments that had a close relationship with the external stakeholders of the UFS had been identified to drive the project.

3. ADDRESS BY THE REGISTRAR

Mr NN Ntsababa, UFS Registrar, explained the statutory stipulations as contemplated in sections 33 (as amended) and 34 of the 2018 UFS Statute.

In terms of the definition of the Convocation (section 33 of 2018, as amended in March 2019) the Convocation was defined as follows: "All persons who obtained a formal qualification from the UFS, as well as all permanent academic staff members."

Attention was drawn to the responsibilities of the Convocation in terms of its contribution and accountability to the UFS Council.

The purpose of the meeting was the election of a President and Vice-President of the Convocation according to the stipulations of the Statute (section 35 of the 2018 Statute), as well as the Executive Committee of the Convocation. The Composition, Manner of Election and Appointment and Functions of the Executive Committee of the Convocation were stipulated by the Constitution of the Convocation.

A proposal by Prof Grobbelaar to offer the position of Vice-President to the candidate who had received the second highest number of votes was generally accepted, but it was noted that the decision to accept or reject the position remained the prerogative of the candidate.

4. ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CONVOCATION

4.1 Presentation: Dr PD du Toit

Dr Du Toit shared his views of the Convocation and provided an overview of his career and qualifications. He mentioned that he had served as Vice-President of the Convocation since 2017. He had also attended various graduation ceremonies and meetings on behalf of the outgoing President, Prof JU Grobbelaar.



4.2 Presentation: Mr LR Mokoena

Mr Mokoena emphasised that unity, commitment and a striving to serve would provide the foundation for a successful Convocation. He provided an overview of his career and qualifications. He confirmed his commitment to the institution.

4.3 Voting

Ballot papers were made available.

The Registrar (Mr NN Ntsababa) and the Deputy Registrar (Mrs JH van Pletzen) acted as voting officials, and Mr A Dlanjwa volunteered to act as an observer for the counting of the ballot papers.

It was announced that 30 people had voted, and that the majority of the votes were in favour of Dr PD du Toit. He was congratulated on his election as the President of the Convocation for a period of five years commencing from the date of election.

4.4 Address by the newly elected President

The newly elected President of the Convocation, Dr PD du Toit, thanked the members for the vote of confidence in him. He confirmed his dedication and loyalty towards the Convocation and the UFS.

4.5 Election of the Vice-President

Mr LR Mokoena was unanimously elected as the Vice-President of the Convocation for a period of five years commencing from the date of election. He accepted the position, mentioning that he was humbled by the experience and confirming his dedication and loyalty to the Convocation and the UFS.

5. MEETING PROCEDURES

It was noted that the meeting was being recorded and that minutes would be provided. It was reiterated that the minutes should be properly signed and filed.

Mr NN Ntsababa informed the members that documents that were of importance to the Convocation were available on the UFS website under "Alumni".

It was requested that members of the Convocation be provided with a membership card and a printed copy of the Constitution of the Convocation.

6. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONVOCATION ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CONVOCATION

Mr NN Ntsababa explained the composition of the Convocation Executive Committee, as included in the Constitution of the Convocation. He explained that representatives of other statutory bodies would be elected by such bodies. In terms of the Constitution, the Convocation had five representatives, elected by the Convocation. He mentioned that gender representation of the



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Convocation in the Council as well as in the leadership was a challenge. He emphasized the importance of ensuring the gender balance in the Convocation structures, particularly the Executive Committee by encouraging female Convocation members to participate in the democratic process of nomination and election of the Executive Committee members.

The Registrar was requested to proceed with the process of nomination for election of the members of the Executive Committee of the Convocation, and to ensure that it was indicated that equity, gender and diversity had to be prioritised.

7. Vote of Thanks

The newly elected Vice-President, Mr L Mokoena, thanked everyone for the attendance of the meeting and participating in the Convocation affairs. He thanked the outgoing President, Prof Grobbelaar for his leadership over the years as well as the Rector for laying the ground for the Convocation to function and contribute towards the achievement of the UFS vision and mission. He thanked the organising Committee and those who worked behind the scene to make the meeting a success.

7. CLOSURE

The newly elected President, Dr PD du Toit, thanked everyone who had attended the meeting.

The meeting was concluded at 10:50.