



**Mangosuthu
University of Technology**

MINUTES

CONVOCATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Held on Saturday, 07 December 2019 at 10h00

In the Prixley ka Seme Hall

SECTION A: ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Constitution of the meeting

a. Present

As per the attendance register filed in the Marketing Department.

b. Apologies

Apologies were noted.

c. In Attendance

Ms K Nodangala

Secretary: Policy Development & Secretariat

2. Opening and welcome

- 2.1 The Deputy Chairperson opened the meeting, thanking everyone present and appreciated their coming. He then called the Deputy Registrar: Secretariat and Policy Development to confirm the quorum.

The quorum was established in accordance with the MUT Statute at 10h57.

The Deputy Chairperson then called the President of the Convocation to officially open the meeting.

The President opened the meeting officially, highlighting that the meeting was for issues impacting graduates and those who were still studying. He said the meeting was also for looking at the challenges facing the university. He requested the members to put on their objectivity and development hats and avoid seeking popularity because the university wants solutions. He further advised the members that the challenges of the university were bigger than the Government hence all attendants should give their all in assisting.

The President welcomed the Chairperson of the Council and the MUT Vice Chancellor (VC) to the meeting. He advised the members that the VC would deliver a report which indicated how best the university can achieve its objectives.

3. Confirmation of the agenda

The agenda was received and confirmed with no amendments.

4. Declaration of possible conflict of interest

There was no possible conflict of interest declared by any member of the meeting.

SECTION B: ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE ON THE AGENDA

Adoption of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the Convocation AGM held on **17 November 2018** were received and confirmed as a true reflection of the proceedings of the meeting.

Adoption of the minutes was proposed by Mrs Zama Sishi and seconded by Mr Lindokuhle Mazibuko.

Matters arising from the previous minutes

The matters arising from the previous minutes was covered in the President's report.

SECTION C: ITEMS FOR NOTING

1. Chairperson of Council's report

The Chairperson opened by greeting the President, Vice Chancellor, Leadership of the MUT and the Convocation at large. He then congratulated the Convocants who put aside their businesses and attended the AGM. He acknowledged busy schedules and thanked members for availing themselves.

The Chairperson said the members must ask themselves, what is their contribution in the university. He stated that the Convocation exists for the benefit of the university. He informed the members that Convocation members have to contribute to the university not take away. He further advised the members that other universities have active convocations therefore the MUT Convocation must also have a way of capacitating communities.

The Chairperson of Council requested that members should organise sponsors from their organisations because they are ambassadors of the university wherever they are. He affirmed that Convocation should be able to build its own capacity and not funded by the university.

In concluding the Chairperson of Council begged the members to be aware of the leadership they elect. They must not elect those who saw business opportunities in the university because the only stakeholder that matters is the university not individuals.

There were no comments or questions of clarity after his report.

2. State of the university report – Vice Chancellor

The VC first acknowledged everyone present, thereafter briefly addressed the members highlighting that MUT is striving to compete with other universities however there were challenges like:

- Economy struggle;
- High unemployment;
- Growing inequality;
- Hostility in the Government; and
- Under funding by Government

The VC mentioned that the academic programme was improving and exceeded the target. He further mentioned that with regards to the financial status, there were no reserves.

In concluding, he indicated that the way forward was the University Strategy 2020-2025.

Members were afforded an opportunity to comment and ask questions of clarity.

The following comments and questions of clarity were made:

- University to consider two graduation ceremonies;
- University must move with times, stop using old systems to avoid queues;
- Why no reserves – is PFMA applied in the university;

- How do we assist;
- How do we make sure the industry supports the university;
- The incoming Convocation leadership must come up with new initiatives;
- Tap on the networks and they become ambassadors;
- Enable student chapters – Engineering;
- Regarding funding, let everyone be engaged in the strategy.

3. Report of the Convocation President

The President alluded that the report was circulated so he will summarise it. He said the first objective was to fill up Seme Hall. He said another objective was to participate effectively to the development of the graduates and university.

The President reported that there was a R160m student debt which requires a very good mitigation.

In concluding he highlighted few challenges faced by the university such as post-graduate funding. He then requested that all Convocation members must update their details with the Marketing Department.

Members were afforded an opportunity to comment and ask questions of clarity:

The following comments and questions of clarity were made:

- The report had absence of Treasurer's report;
- Database for Alumni must be updated;
- Change the conversation regarding unemployment, how do we build self-sustained economy;
- There must be a clear structure to absorb the graduates;
- Activities of the Convocation;
- Secretariat report;
- Membership;
- Constant communication;
- Branches of Convocation (Chapters launched);

- Transport costs;
- Honour the young woman killed in the premises, support the case in court;
- The Entrepreneurship course is supported;
- There is no heavy current now – Engineering department;
- Not clear about term of office;
- Commend an approach for testimonials, this should be a standing item;
- Report on the KPIs of officials – CONVEXCO;
- Are we not manufacturing a problem, producing graduates who are not employable;
- What is the MUT doing to overcome the economic challenges.

After all the comments and questions of clarity, the responses were provided.

The report was adopted by Sakha Mngoma and Seconded by Thabisile.

4. Matters of procedure

The members discussed the adoption of the constitution. It was agreed that the constitution must be adopted subject to rework by the newly elected CONVEXCO. It was also agreed that the Treasurer must be elected.

5. Motions for adoption

- A contribution of R200 per annum by all members;
- Co-opt from convocants, staff members and students must be project / programme based (this must be reworded by the new CONVEXCO)

6. Elections

- Elections for CONVEXCO were conducted and the results were as follows:
 - 6.1. President- Mr S Dlamini
 - 6.2. Deputy President – Mr T Hadebe
 - 6.3. Mr S Ndlovu – Additional member
 - 6.4. Mr S Mbonambi – Additional member
 - 6.5. Ms S Mnyandu – Additional member

6.6. Mr D Buthelezi – Additional member

- Elections for Convocation representatives on Council were conducted and the results were as follows:

6.7. Mr S Dlamini

6.8. Ms S Mnyandu

RESOLUTIONS

The schedule of resolutions taken on the day of the meeting is attached hereto.

SECTION D: CLOSING AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1. The date of the next meeting was not announced.
2. There being no further items to discuss, an election of new leadership commenced and the actual meeting finished at 17h20.

Signed: **Date:**

Chairperson