



Fundiswa Nofemela

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

Ms Fundiswa Nofemela, Director

First MUT interns in China

The year 2017 saw significant developments and achievements in Work-Integrated Learning (WIL).

The capstone WIL achievement was the placement of the first MUT interns in China for a 12-month WIL programme. This opportunity was made possible through a partnership between merSETA and the Chinese Culture and International Education Exchange Centre.

The internship involved a six-month period spent in a university and a further six months in a company in China. MUT students Siphephelo Ndlovu, an IT graduate, and Mthobisi Disane, an electrical engineering WIL student, were at universities in Shanghai and Beijing respectively.

WIL Imbizo 2017

A Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Imbizo was hosted by the Directorate of Co-operative Education to provide an opportunity for employers to engage with MUT staff on all matters relating to WIL. The speaker for the day, Dr Thabo Mashongoane of the National Skills Authority (NSA), shared with the delegates his insights on the importance of university-industry partnerships.

The Imbizo was attended by 95 host employers, heads of academic departments, directors from strategic support units at MUT, and all WIL staff. All areas of WIL were debated and improvements suggested in areas such as student WIL orientation, preparation, monitoring and so on. As a result of this engagement, the Co-operative Education Directorate has included activities in its improvement plan that will address some of the employer concerns.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE

Dr Mogasuri Moodley, Director

Full steam ahead for new qualifications at MUT

MUT added another feather to its cap with the accreditation of seven new academic programmes in 2017:

Faculty of Natural Sciences

Advanced Diploma in Agriculture Extension & Community Development
Advanced Diploma in Agriculture Crop Production
Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Sciences

Faculty of Management Sciences

Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resource Management
Diploma in Local Governance & Finance
Advanced Diploma in Cost & Management Accounting

Faculty of Engineering

Advanced Diploma in Chemical Engineering

In addition, a number of programmes were submitted to the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) for Programme and Qualification Mix (PQM) Clearance. (This takes place in preparation for the final submission phase to the Council for Higher Education (CHE) for accreditation.) All programmes received PQM clearance from the DHET, with the following positive feedback:

Faculty of Natural Sciences

Advanced Diploma in Analytical Chemistry - Granted 30/01/2017
Postgraduate Diploma in Chemistry - Granted 30/01/2017
Doctor of Nature Conservation - Granted 29/05/2017 and submitted to CHE for accreditation.

Faculty of Management Sciences

Advanced Diploma in Accounting - Granted 30/01/2017
Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing - Granted 30/01/2017
Diploma in Municipal Financial Management - Granted 6/09/2017
Advanced Diploma in Public Finance and Accounting - Granted 30/05/2017
Advanced Diploma in Public Management - Granted 29/05/2017

The quality assurance and submission of MUT's first doctoral degree - the PhD in Nature Conservation - is a major coup for the institution and for the Quality Management Directorate (QMD). Throughout all this activity, the QMD has been involved in communication with external regulatory bodies regarding programmes for accreditation, PQM clearance and SAQA registration. As part of Phase 1 of the CHE's Quality Enhancement Project (QEP), MUT engaged with other public universities in developing a single resource called the Code of Good Practice for the higher education sector.



Dr Mogasuri Moodley



Professor Zodwa Dlamini seated in the middle with national and international delegates during the 2017 RIE Week

RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND ENGAGEMENTS

Professor Zodwa Dlamini, Deputy Vice-Chancellor:RIE

The Research, Innovation and Engagements (RIE) portfolio appointed three research professors. These researchers are housed in each faculty in order that each faculty have its own research leader to drive the strategic research direction at a faculty level. The appointees are professors Theodore Conrad Haupt (Engineering), Karabo Shale (Natural Sciences) and Kedibone Phago (Management Sciences).

In addition, the University's first Research Chair was appointed in August. Professor Babatunde Agbola, the Research Chair in Human Settlements, will facilitate institutional linkages and partnerships between MUT, the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Durban University of Technology (DUT), the South African Technology Network (SATN), the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) and others.

The capstone project was the second Research, Innovation and Engagements (RIE) Week, attended by delegates from across South Africa and all continents. The theme was "Engaging globally for local impact". During the RIE Week there was a concerted effort to enable MUT and its delegates to network with strategic stakeholders, such as during the Mayor's dinner and the Founder's dinner.

During the week, partnership agreements and MOUs were signed with the following institutions:

- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (USA);
- Louisiana State University (USA);
- International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) (India);
- Institution for Chemical Technology (India);
- Luiz de Queiroz College of Agriculture, University of Sao Paulo (Brazil);
- SUPERA Technology Park, University of Sao Paulo (Brazil);
- Dublin Institute of Technology (Ireland); and
- University of Hawaii.

During the RIE week, MUT also launched five milestone documents as part of the research agenda at MUT:

- Internationalisation Strategy 2017-2020 and its plan;
- Research and Innovation Strategic Plan 2030;
- Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2017-2020 and its plan;
- Research and Innovation Plan 2017-2021; and
- The first RIE 2016 Annual Report booklet.

Other conferences included:

- The National Human Settlements Conference hosted by MUT and the provincial and national departments of Human Settlements from 5-6 October 2017. This included the launch of the Human Settlements Chair on 5 October;
- Faculty Research Days (Engineering, Natural Sciences and Management Sciences); and
- MUT Community Engagement (CE) Day.

Accolades for the DVC: Research, Innovation and Engagements

- Nominated by the Department of Science and Technology to serve as a member of the Council for Scientific Advisors (CSA) at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) in India.
- Awarded a C2 National Research Foundation (NRF) rating, recognising her as a researcher who constantly produces high quality research outputs.
- Elected as a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSA), for her achievement in the advancement of the application of science.
- Appointed to serve on the Department of Higher Education and Training's (DHET) Research Output Evaluations Panel.
- The first black female student at the University of Natal to graduate with a PhD in Medicine, as confirmed by the UKZN Institutional Intelligence Department.