

## FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

Professor Chandra Jinabhai, Acting Dean

The Management Sciences faculty had a productive year, implementing a number of new programmes and gaining accreditation for others, while students and staff also excelled in their own right.

### New programmes

The Department of Human Resources Management obtained full accreditation for the Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resource Management (PGDIP: HRM) from CHE in February 2017. The programme was subsequently registered by SAQA in December 2017. The department embarked on an aggressive marketing campaign within a short space of time and managed to attract 33 students for the PGDIP: HRM for the 2018 academic year. In addition to this milestone, 42 students graduated with an Advanced Diploma in Human Resource Management in 2017. This was the first cohort with this qualification in the country.

The Department of Office Technology offered an Advanced Diploma: Office Management and Technology for the first time in 2017, and the pass rate for 2017 examination cycle was good.

The second year (second cycle) of the Advanced Diploma in Marketing was offered in 2017, following a successful first cycle in 2016. The results of the Second Cycle (two courses) were even better than the First Cycle (three courses), which is encouraging. The Department of Marketing had to put together an online application to the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) in order to facilitate academic progression for Advanced Diploma graduates to the Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing. Owing to unexpected hindering factors, the application could not be submitted before the end of 2017 as was envisaged.

The Department of Accounting & Law received full accreditation from the CHE to offer the Diploma in Local Government Finance. The department also received PQM clearance for the Advanced Diploma in Public Finance & Accounting and the Diploma in Municipal Financial Management.

The Department of Public Administration underwent a curriculum renewal process for the Diploma in Public Management to commence in 2018. This included changing the offering from a semesterised to an annual one. All internal approvals were finalised in 2016.

### Instruction - Modes of delivery in the classroom

Dependent on the available facilities and enabling circumstances in the institution, most staff members used a combination of contact and whiteboard, smartboard, Blackboard and EDMODO methods of delivering the lectures to registered students.



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### Student awards and achievement

The 2017 class for the Advanced Diploma in Human Resource Management hosted a very successful symposium on the topical issue of entrepreneurship. Successful entrepreneurs were invited to share their experience with students in the department.

The Department of Office Technology was able to place 96% of its students for Work-integrated Learning (WIL) after having forged new relationships with industry.

A group of third-year Marketing students were requested by Nedbank to be brand ambassadors at the Nedbank Cup final which was played at Moses Mabhida stadium. After the event, the organisers commended the department on their students' behaviour and professionalism.

On an annual basis, PPS Professionals do a photo campaign for the B.Tech: Cost & Management Accounting students whereby they provide every student with a copy of the class photograph and promotional items. Thereafter they do a presentation on their products and take questions from students. They take a list of the students' details for their database to assist students in future with job placement, bursaries and membership.

The total number of graduates in the Faculty of Management Sciences class of 2017 was 1 099, including 16 students who received their diplomas cum laude. The top student to receive the Vice-Chancellor's award was Mr Mondli Mbuli from the Department of Accounting who was registered for the National Diploma: Accounting (ECP) (4 years).



Seated, Management Sciences and Engineering faculties winners, Prof Logan Naidoo, Victor Mqijima, Nkululeko Damoyi, Adesoji Jaiyeola and Kevin Ramsarghey, and MUT Management and guest speakers

### Staff awards and achievements

Ms Thembi Kotelana, acting head of the Department of Human Resources Management, was appointed by the CHE to conduct an institutional evaluation of a private institution in Johannesburg on 20 June 2017. The panel consisted of two members, Professor Van Zyl from the University of the Free State as the chair and Ms Kotelana as a panel member.

Mr Kevin Ramsarghey, senior lecturer in the Department of Accounting & Law, and Professor Logan Naidoo, senior lecturer in the Department of Human Resources Management, received silver awards at the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Awards, while Mr Victor Mqijima, lecturer in the Department of Communication, received a bronze award in the Best Established Teacher category. As part of their prize, all the winners were able to attend the national HELTASA conference which was held during November 2017 at the Coastlands Hotel in Umhlanga.

For the first time the Department of Accounting & Law has recruited three Chartered Accountants (CAs) to lecture in the department.

### Faculty of Management Sciences research highlights for 2017

#### Faculty Research Day

The Faculty of Management Sciences held a Research Day on 14 September 2017.

#### Special issue of the Journal of Public Administration - September 2017

The following papers were published by MUT staff members:

- Professor S. Ngcobo and Mr S. Keswa - "Exploring graduates' perception of entrepreneurial development opportunities in Agriculture"
- Ms B. Mvuyana and Dr S. Myeni - "An evaluation of the effects of the private sector participation in housing development in South Africa"
- Dr M. Sikwela and Mr N. Fuyane - "The role played by external organisations on citrus smallholder farmers' livelihoods outcomes: a case study of smallholder farmers in South Africa"

The faculty was also able to publish other journal articles, book chapters and presentations at local and international conferences by several other researchers.

#### Community Engagement Project

A multi-disciplinary team led by Dr M.M. Sikwela (Senior Lecturer: Economics) was awarded first prize for **Best Multidisciplinary Collaborations for Community Development** at MUT's Community Engagement Excellence Awards in late 2016. The team was made up of Dr Sikwela (Project Manager), Dr M. Buthelezi (IRDCE Co-ordinator), Mr N. Fuyane (Lecturer: Marketing) and Mr B.K. Zwane (Lecturer: Accounting). The purpose of their project was to promote access to both formal and informal markets for smallholder farmers. The team had to identify a niche area which smallholder farmers on the KZN South Coast could capitalise on to sell and make profits from their produce. They collaborated with the Department of Agriculture, third-year students in Marketing, and the smallholder farmers in the South Coast region.