

4. COUNCIL'S STATEMENT ON SUSTAINABILITY

4.1 Introduction

In this Sustainability Report MUT will attempt to indicate how it has impacted on the economic, environmental, social and governance life of the community in Umlazi, Durban, in which it operated during 2017. In this report, MUT's Council will also indicate how Council perceives the way in which MUT could improve the positive aspects and eradicate or ameliorate any negative aspects in the coming year.

The following matters will be discussed in this report:

- Inclusivity of stakeholders;
- Innovation, fairness, and collaboration;
- Social transformation;
- Student numbers and throughput, including pipe-line number of students; and
- Generation of alternative funding streams

4.2 Inclusivity of Stakeholders

MUT continued in 2017 to follow standard democratic processes for decision making through active participation by individuals and internal stakeholders on various statutory structures of decision-making at the University. Programmes and events have been put in place at MUT to promote inclusivity and awareness of stakeholders on issues pertaining to various operational aspects of the University. For example, the Vice-Chancellor has again used his State of the University address at the beginning of 2017 to provide both internal and external MUT stakeholders with a good picture of strategic, academic and operational matters at MUT. Furthermore, MUT continued its annual engagements with parents, guardians and neighbouring communities to inform them about matters and developments at MUT.

MUT has continued its outreach to schools by means of its Circle of Excellence (CoE) awards. The event is fully supported by the Department of Education, Umlazi District, and the full management executive committee attends, which includes curriculum education specialists, circuit managers, subject advisers and high school principals. Top performing high schools receive essential educational resources from sponsors sourced by MUT's Marketing and Communications department. The event was held on 7 March 2017. Sponsorship received was to the value of more than R300 000. Sponsored prizes were awarded to the top achieving schools in Maths, Science and Accounting. The impact of this initiative was that MUT managed to attract three new sponsors (Gem Schoolwear, Sesifikile Booksellers, and Extramarks Education). The event generated huge media interest and was covered in 10 different publications.

Since the establishment of the CoE we have had more meaningful collaboration and relations with the Umlazi high schools. This is good for our recruitment purposes as learners from these schools have good matric results and do not require accommodation in our residences.

MUT's Management has continued their regular engagements with student leaders and leadership structures. That engagement ensured once again that student leaders were given the opportunity to raise issues with management and to receive timely responses and guidance from management before those issues became problematic and resulted in student protests or disruptions of classes.

4.3 Innovation, Fairness and Collaboration

MUT has continued to pursue new innovations and developments by mean of its Centre for the Development of Green Technology and the Technology Station: Chemicals as well as the faculties in general.

Fairness is one of the key values of MUT as stated in its Strategic Plan 2015 - 2019. MUT continually strives to treat all its stakeholders with fairness and respect. In instances of disciplinary action to be taken against students accused of breaking MUT's rules, the University takes the utmost care to ensure that such students are treated fairly and are allowed various forms of appeal.

In terms of collaboration, MUT has continued with its membership of the Southern African Technology Network (SATN). MUT attends the annual SATN forum and actively participates in its various committees and structures. The networking and collaboration potential in this platform are enormous. MUT also continued its collaboration agreements with its neighbour institutions, such as DUT, UKZN and Unizulu.

4.4 Social Transformation

MUT contributes to social transformation within the Umlazi community by means of the range of programmes which it offers to the students and community. In 2017 MarComms prepared 15 primary school girls to compete with 10,000 girls from across the country. This is an opportunity for grade 7 girls to submit applications to the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy to pursue their high school and tertiary education on a full scholarship from the Academy. MarComms assisted twenty learners from the four Umlazi Primary school to submit applications and ten girls were shortlisted for an interview. A team from MarComms coached the girls and prepared them for the interview. We are proud that one of the girls, Eihle Gcabashe from Khalipha Primary School, was accepted into the programme. By helping to educate and improve the education levels of members of the community, MUT is playing a constructive role in the social transformation of the community.

4.5 Student Numbers and Graduates

The student headcount at MUT is continuing to grow. MUT had a total headcount of 11,586 students in 2017, excluding those students registered for Work Integrated Learning (WIL). It has set itself a headcount target of 12,500 by 2019. By increasing access and success for students, MUT is not only contributing to the Department of Higher Education's national imperatives, but making a specific contribution to the development needs of Umlazi and the wider community that it serves. Below is an illustration of MUT's student headcount enrolments for the past five years.

Enrolment KPI	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
A. ACCESS					
Headcount Totals (subsidised students)	10 459	10 380	10 396	10 508	11 586
First-time entering undergraduates	2 883	2 683	2 844	3 205	3 713
Headcount enrolments (Foundation Provisioning - First-Time Entering)	368	300	341	355	386
Headcount enrolments total UG	10 459	10 380	10 365	10 493	11 563
Headcount enrolments PG	0	0	31	15	23
Science, engineering and technology	5 992	5 969	6 097	6 070	6 705
Business/management	3 644	3 643	3 612	3 774	3 970
Education	-	-	-	-	-
Other humanities	823	768	687	664	911
Distance education enrolments	0	0	0	0	0

MUT's enrolment trend suggests that the University is well positioned to achieve planned headcount enrolment growth to 12,500 students in 2019, in accordance with the current cycle of enrolment planning in the sector. Below is an illustration of MUT's total number of graduates for the past five years.

Enrolment KPI	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
B. SUCCESS					
Graduate UG	2 276	2 445	2 483	2 286	2 338
Graduate PG	0	0	8	10	20
Engineering	653	702	762	722	681
Life and physical sciences	51	53	74	79	65
Animal and human health	42	183	187	211	201
Teacher education	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Success rate	81%	83%	83%	81%	81%

Despite a slight decline in the number of graduates from 2015 to 2016, there has been modest growth of 2,7% in graduate headcounts from 2013 to 2017. Actual graduate headcounts have exceeded targets in 2014, 2015 and 2016.