

#### 5.4.1.2 Limitations on Access to Certain Courses

Increased student enrolments and a large number of repeating students in some subjects put significant strain on infrastructure and human resources. The student numbers in some subjects exceed the seating capacity of allocated lecture venues. ECSA requires the Faculty to ensure that practical groups do not to exceed five students per group. This results in an increase in the number of practical sessions, which is not adequately supported by laboratory infrastructure and the number of technicians.

Some departments are still experiencing a shortage of computer workstations in their computer laboratories. Some departments have large number of staff vacancies and fail to attract suitably qualified people on a permanent basis. This has resulted in over-reliance on part time staff, which can negatively impact on module delivery.

#### 5.4.1.3 Student Awards and Achievements

The measure of educators' success is the quality of their graduates. The Faculty of Engineering produced 823 National Diploma and 21 Bachelor of Technology graduates in 2017. Seven graduates completed their qualifications cum laude.

Among the top graduates in the faculty is Ms Xoliswa Patience Langa. She graduated cum laude, had sixteen distinctions, and received the prestigious Meritorious Student Award from the South African Institute of Mechanical Engineers (SAIMEche) for her achievements. She is doing further training at Toyota's car manufacturing plant at Prospecton, Durban.

#### 5.4.1.4 Staff Appointments

Three permanent staff members with PhD qualifications have been appointed in the Chemical Engineering Department. The Department of Construction Management and Quantity Surveying has two additional staff members.

Prof T Haupt has been appointed as a research Professor for the Faculty of Engineering.

#### 5.4.1.5 Staff Qualifications

Mr Chetty obtained his MSc (Construction Studies) cum laude at UKZN.

Mr Jan van der Westhuizen obtained the MSc (Civil Engineering) cum laude.

Mr Naidoo obtained the MSc (Construction) cum laude.

Ms Makhathini obtained her Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education

Four staff members in the Department of Chemical Engineering are registered for their PhD.

#### 5.4.1.6 Staff Achievements

The Faculty continues to grow its research base. The most noticeable areas of strength continue to be in waste water treatment and alternative energy sources. Two registered community engagement projects draw on these strengths. There is also noticeable growth of expertise in the areas of chemical engineering thermodynamics and built environment. The appointment of the research professor in the Faculty has significantly contributed to the growth of research capacity.

Staff members have published 11 articles in SAPSE accredited journals, presented 16 papers at peer-reviewed conferences, and published two book chapters.

The Electrical Engineering Department received a donation of laboratory equipment to the value of R411,000 from SIEMENS for educational use. The donation was facilitated by Prof Naidoo.

Gift of the Givers Foundation, represented by Dr Sooliman, donated 24 new computers which were installed in C14 (Electrical Engineering) after damage to infrastructure caused by the 2017 floods in Durban.

#### 5.4.2 FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

The Department of Human Resources Management obtained full accreditation for the Postgraduate Diploma in Human Resource Management (PGDIP: HRM) from the 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 2017, 42 students graduated with the Advanced Diploma in Human Resource Management. This was the first cohort of students 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.

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, including changing the offering from a semester to an annual basis. All internal approvals were finalised in 2016.

#### 5.4.2.1 Instruction

Dependent on the available facilities and enabling circumstances in the institution, most staff members were using contact and whiteboard, smartboard, Blackboard, and Edmodo methods of delivering lectures to registered students. Some staff make use of other applications that are freely available, such as "Share It".

One challenge in using Blackboard and Edmodo methods is that some students do not have smartphones.

There is a serious challenge with the computers in the laboratories. Students are utilising computers that are old and need to be replaced. This has dire consequences on practical assessments, especially during examination cycles.

Several staff members prefer using PowerPoint presentations during lectures; however, they are hindered by the shortage of available data projectors.

#### 5.4.2.2 Limitations on Access to Certain Courses

The Department of Office Technology's student enrolment is limited to 90 students in the day and 90 students in the evening programmes, due to the lack of adequate infrastructure with regard to computer laboratories.

Lack of adequate computer laboratories as well as the absence of flexibility in the use of other computer laboratories makes it difficult for students registered for End-User Computing courses to have sufficient time to practise what has been learnt in theory as well as to write assessments.

Programme departments introducing new qualifications with English Communication Skills as one of the subjects do not communicate timeously with the Department of Communication regarding the implications for staffing requirements. According to the proposed academic structure, the Department of Communication qualifies for two extended curriculum programme (ECP) lecturers. This structure has not yet been approved. The Department is desperately in need of ECP lecturers because there are only three lecturers who teach in this programme, which is offered in three faculties.

There is also a limitation on accessing entrepreneurial studies/skills whilst studying towards obtaining a diploma qualification owing to the non-availability of an Entrepreneurial Centre for the university. The bits and pieces of information embedded in various courses offered by lecturers do not really instil confidence in students that they can make it on their own, without having to rely on being employed.

All Diplomas offered in the Department of Accounting have, as core entrance requirements, Mathematics and Accounting (and English) at certain achievement levels (at least 3 for Mathematics and 4 for Accounting). However, the production of such achievement levels at Grade 12 in recent years seems to be limited. Hence the student intake tends to drop gradually each year.

There is a general shortage of office space whereby academics have to share offices, which impacts on privacy during consultations with students. Lecturers who are sharing offices in the so called mobile park homes near Seme Hall also have to share the port for the internet since there is no Wi-Fi. This is a huge inconvenience for the lecturers.