

5.4.2.3 Student Awards and Achievements

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 students for Work Integrated Learning 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 department received commendations of the students with regard to behaviour and professionalism by the organisers of the event.

On an annual basis PPS (Professional Provident Society) does a photo campaign for the BTEch: Cost & Management Accounting students, providing every student with a copy of the class photograph and promotional items. Thereafter they do a presentation on their products and answer 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 from the 2017 class 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 ND: Accounting (ECP) (4 years).

5.4.2.4 Staff Awards and Achievements

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

The HRM professional body (SABPP) was approached by CHE to recommend 10 senior academics for appointment as evaluators of programmes for accreditation in September 2017. Ms Kotelana was recommended by the professional body, however she was already an evaluator appointed directly by CHE in 2014.

Mr K Ramsarghey, senior lecturer in the Department of Accounting & Law, and Prof L Naidoo, senior lecturer in the Department of Human Resources Management, received silver awards at the VC's Teaching and Learning Excellence Awards and were able to attend the National HELTASA conference which was held during November 2017 at the Coastlands Hotel in Umhlanga.

Mr V Mgijima, lecturer in the Department of Communication, received a bronze award as the Best Established teacher at the VC's Teaching and Learning Excellence Award and was also able to attend the HELTASA conference.

The Department of Accounting and Law for the first time attracted three Chartered Accountants to lecture within the department.

5.4.2.5 Staff Appointments

The following permanent appointments were made in the Faculty during 2017:

Mr NG Zulu, Department of Communication

Dr MA Gumede, Department of Communication

Mr R Kalidin (CA)(SA), Department of Accounting and Law

5.4.2.6 Staff Qualifications

The following staff members obtained their Masters qualification:

Ms H Mhlongo, Department of Human Resources Management: Master of Commerce;

Ms B Dladla, Department of Human Resources Management: Master of Public Administration;

TO Mkhize, Department of Office Technology: Master of Management Sciences in Administration and Information Management.

5.4.3 FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

A highlight for the Faculty of Natural Sciences was the commencement of the offering of a Master of Nature Conservation. This is the first master's programme to be offered at MUT and it articulates to a PhD degree programme.

The Biomedical Sciences Department offered the part-time Diploma to BSc graduates employed in the diagnostic laboratories. The Advanced Diploma in Agricultural Extension and Community Development and the Advanced Diploma in Agriculture in Crop Production were both fully accredited by the CHE. Both Biomedical Sciences and Environmental Health had their diploma and degree programmes accredited by the HPCSA.

5.4.3.1 Instruction

Modes of lecture delivery within the Faculty included chalkboard, PowerPoint presentations, Blackboard, Moodle, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Skype and various Web 2.0 applications.

5.4.3.2 Limitations on Access to Certain Courses

Space constraints limited the number of students that could be admitted to agricultural fields. A similar constraint was experienced in the Department of Information and Communication Technology as a result of inadequate computer laboratories. Student enrolment in the Biomedical Technology programme was limited by the capacity of the pathology industry to absorb only a fixed number of Medical Technology graduates each year (e.g. the private laboratories such as Ampath and Lancet and the national health laboratory services). This is a positive control, however, because all students are guaranteed to have a job after qualification. The initiation of new programmes is hampered by the delay in the approval of the negotiated staff structure.

5.4.3.3 Student Awards and Achievements

A student from Information and Communication Technology won the Vice Chancellor's award as the best student in the Faculty. The 2017 student pass rate for the Faculty was above 80%.

5.4.3.4 New Programme Accreditation

- The Department of Community Extension received accreditation approval from CHE in March 2017 to offer the Advanced Diploma in Agricultural Extension and Community Development.
- Advanced Diploma Agriculture in Crop Production.

5.4.3.5 Staff Appointments

The research professor for the Faculty was appointed in 2017.

5.4.3.6 Staff Qualifications

- Dr TT Poswa from Department of Environmental Health obtain a PhD degree;
- Dr VN Ndou from Community Extension obtained a PhD degree;
- Dr NE Damoyi from Chemistry obtained a PhD degree;
- Ms NP Ndlovu from Community Extension obtained a Master's degree in Food and Nutrition;
- Mr ST Shabalala from Department of Agriculture obtained a Master's degree in sustainable Agriculture;
- Mr MH Thabethe from Department of Mathematical Sciences obtained an MSc (Physics);
- Mrs NM Rasenyalo from Department of Mathematical Sciences obtained an MSc (Mathematics);
- Mr JJ Msane from Information and Communication Technology obtained a Master's degree.