

3.3 Council Statement

DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

To prevent conflict of interest among Council members, all Council members were required to sign an annual Declaration of Interest form for members of Council and at each meeting to declare any conflict of interest in items on the agenda. All Council members completed and submitted the forms on declaration of interests.

MUT STATUTE

Council considered the revised MUT Statute with recommendations by the DHET, the Task Team, the Executive Management as well as the EXCO. Council approved the revised draft Statute for re-submission to the DHET subject to incorporation of the recommended changes and any additional comments forwarded, before the end of June 2015. The MUT Statute was finally approved by the Minister of Higher Education & Training for publication in the Government Gazette, subject to amendments on pages 26 and 27, Section 51(2) (d). The estimated cost for placing a notice in the Government Gazette would be R40 000.

Council members were urged to familiarize themselves with the MUT Statute as gazzeted in October 2015, in particular, the requirements on what constitutes the Council. Some senior management staff members attend Council meetings by invitation; namely the CFO, the Senior Director: Human Resources, and the Executive Director in the office of the Vice Chancellor.

MUT'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2015- 2019 MUT'S 2015 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN

Council considered the MUT's Strategic Plan 2015–2017 and the MUT's 2015 Annual Performance Plan which had been approved by EXCO at a special meeting held on 14 January 2015. The documents were then submitted to the DHET on 15 January 2015. Council acknowledged the amount of work done to be able to submit the documents to DHET on time and ratified approval of the MUT's Strategic Plan and Annual Performance Plan.

After deliberations the meeting recommended that Section 4: Ministerial Approved Student Enrolment Targets should include the baseline and performance targets for 2016. The report should be aligned to the baseline numbers in all the sections of the document. There should be coherence on the figures for each quarter. Subsequently Council adopted the Strategic Plan and the Annual Performance Plan for 2016 with amendments.

CONSIDERATION OF PROTOCOLS IN NAMING NEW BUILDINGS

As the University is constructing new buildings, Council was requested to develop a draft document for the University structures to consider what protocol to follow in naming the new buildings.

COMBINED ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

Council considered and approved the Combined Assurance Framework. The framework was prepared in terms of the King III Report on Corporate Governance Principle 3.5. The Framework aims to optimize the assurance coverage obtained from Management as well as internal and external assurance providers on the strategic risk areas affecting the University.

3.4 Governance Structures

Improvement of Governance continued as more policies and processes were approved and control frameworks were implemented.

INSTITUTIONAL FORUM (IF)

The Chairperson of the Institutional Forum attended a meeting of Chairpersons of Institutional Forum where the role of the forum was clarified. Other stakeholders would be apprised of role of the IF.

GOVERNANCE OF RISK

Enhancing knowledge and innovation as well as implementing strategic development and goals will always have risks. Effective risk management increases the probability of successful outcomes, whilst protecting the reputation and sustainability of the University. At Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT) Council is responsible for overseeing the total process of risk management.

The 2015 Risk Register was presented to Council for approval as recommended by the Audit & Risk Committee. The risks identified in the Risk Register as well as the format used were noted and discussed. A new a template would be provided.

GOVERNING STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS

MUT fully supports the ideas of widening access, redress and success as articulated in the National Plan for Higher Education. Therefore, it promotes 'equity of access and outcomes'. Being located in a disadvantaged area, MUT attracts a majority of students who come from disadvantaged communities and schools. As a result, many of the students are poor and often cannot afford