

CRITICAL POSITIONS IN THE OFFICE OF DVC: RESEARCH, INNOVATION & ENGAGEMENTS

Council considered a request for the appointment of critical positions in the Research, Innovation & Engagement portfolio. Council noted that all positions that had not been advertised had been frozen unless special circumstances exist to fill them. Council had decided on a procedure that would be followed in the event there was a need to fill a frozen position.

Council further noted that with regard to the Research, Innovation & Engagements portfolio that the organogram had not been approved although there are permanent positions in this portfolio. In the circumstances, Council delegated EXCO to the extent necessary, to consider the motivation by that department for the filling in of critical positions that would assist that department to function efficiently. If EXCO was satisfied with this submission, the normal process that has to be followed with regards to positions that are frozen would have to be followed.

LIMITED ORGANISATIONAL RIGHTS TO TENUSA

Council considered and approved the granting of limited organizational rights to the Tertiary Education National Union of South Africa (TENUSA) as follows:

- Section 12 – the right to access and
- Section 13 – the right to collect union dues (subscriptions).

Report on the Position of the DVC: Research, Innovation and Engagements (RIE)

Council considered and approved the appointment of Prof Z.L. Dlamini as the DVC: Research, Innovation and Engagements.

ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS

Council considered and approved the recommendations for the promotion of two academic staff members.

STAFF MATTERS

Council noted with sadness the passing away of MUT's former Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A.M. Ndlovu. Prof Ndlazi had been requested to represent Council at the memorial service that took place at Bhhekuzulu Hall, University of Zululand in Empangeni on 28 November 2015. A moment of silence was observed in honour of the late Prof. A.M. Ndlovu.

The MUT Vice-Chancellor had been re-elected as Chairperson of the South African Technology Network (SATN) for the next two years.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S CONTRACT

Council considered that the term of office of the Vice Chancellor would end in August 2015. A meeting of EXCO had recommended that the Vice-Chancellor be re-appointed for another five year term, based on his performance and his exceptional leadership skills. The matter was further discussed in 'In-Committee' Council meetings. The Council In-committee meeting resolved that the Vice Chancellor's contract must be finalized by the end of December 2015.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

A staff member, Mr Pons, received a number of awards for his innovative research work "Ceiling in a can".

A report on academic staff members who had obtained Masters and PhD through funding provided by the University was noted.

3.11 Student Matters

One student participated in the Abe Bailey Travel Trust Bursary in the UK.

MUT STUDENTS INVOLVED IN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Council noted the report that eighteen MUT students were involved in infrastructure development projects in the form of work integrated learning and vacation work. One of them, Miss Nomonde Zondi was employed by the Construction Company that was appointed by MUT. She is responsible for construction of Block 2C of the student residence. She was offered employment by the Construction Company to be a site manager in Pietermaritzburg, however she declined the offer as she wanted to complete her project to manage the student block.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SRC CONSTITUTION

Council considered the proposed amendments to the SRC Constitution which resulted from a concern that statistics showed that once SRC members were in office, their academic performance declined. Management believes that once students are in office they should continue to be active and succeeding students. After deliberation, the matter of amendment of the SRC Constitution was referred back to Management for further discussion and development of a proper management report on the proposed amended SRC constitution. If there are any differences between Management and the SRC, these must be highlighted in the report and Council needs to make a decision.