

reported to exist on computer workstations in the existing computer labs in the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying. The poor performance in Mathematics and Science at School level, recently shown by the majority of first-time entering students performing at NQF 2 in the evaluations for academic readiness conducted by the Teaching and Learning Development Centre (TLDC), severely affected student performance and progression in this Faculty, requiring extensive remediation in the form of the PreTech and the extended curriculum programmes (ECPs).

Student Awards and Achievements

Mr SN Zindela was awarded the Meritorious Student Award by the South African Institution of Mechanical Engineering for being the best Mechanical Engineering student at MUT in 2015. The Conference of Southern African Surveyors' (CONSAS) Award of Excellence to the best student in Surveying / Geomatics was given to Ms TN Masuku. Every university offering a Surveying / Geomatics programme recognised by PLATO is eligible to enter the competition for the CONSAS Award of Excellence. Programmes in (Land) Surveying, Mine Surveying and Geo-informatics Sciences are included. The award is for the best student at a university who has completed his/her undergraduate programme and obtained at least an average of 70% for all subjects in the relevant programme. Ms Masuku obtained an average 79% for her academic subjects and earned 18 distinctions out of 24 subjects - an excellent performance which was acknowledged at national level by CONSAS.

Staff Appointments and Qualifications

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

One (1) nGAP post was created in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Mr Mtsweni was appointed as a Junior Lecturer in Chemical Engineering against this post. Mr Fred Rapai was appointed as a Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering on the 1st August 2015 and Mrs K. Behara was appointed as a Senior Lecturer in Electrical Engineering on the 1st October 2015.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering lost some valuable staff members in 2015 who are not easy to replace. The loss was to other institutions and included staff members who had recently acquired their doctoral degrees.

QUALIFICATIONS

Mr M D Lushiku completed a second MSc in Civil Engineering specializing in Concrete, whilst Mr A Jaiyeola completed his MSc in Civil Engineering. Chemical Engineering contributed to the enhancement of the

staff qualifications profile in the Faculty through Mrs T Makhathini obtaining a Master's Degree in Chemical Engineering from the Durban University of Technology, and Messrs K Tumba and F Mhlana obtaining their PhDs in Chemical Engineering from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

5.3.2. Faculty of Management Sciences

Instruction

Some departments introduced e-learning to supplement their traditional teaching delivery methods by utilising smart-boards in certain venues. Blackboard, group email facilities and whatsapp messaging was also used by staff to provide access to learning material and enhance other technological functionalities. Students were also able to view assessment marks via the student portal.

Limitations on Access to Certain Courses

During 2015, the Department of Accounting introduced annual programmes and phased out certain current semester programmes. The rationale for this change was to provide additional teaching time to students considering the multidisciplinary nature of accounting programmes.

The BTech degree in Human Resource Management had the last intake into the programme in 2015. However, it will remain active in the University's Programme and Qualification Mix (PQM) until December 2018, when it will be replaced by the Advanced Diploma in Human Resource Management.

Lack of adequate computer laboratory space in some instances resulted in classes having to be split. As a consequence, greater work load burdens fell on the shoulders of information technology teaching staff. In isolated cases, there were no available lecturers to conduct classes. This had a negative impact on level of ICT related tuition received by some students.

Student Awards and Achievements

One student, Ms Z Khumalo from the Department of Accounting was selected for the ABE Bailey trust award. Three students from the Department of Public Administration were selected to attend an educational tour in Tanzania. The tour assisted in leadership development, improving entrepreneurial skills and promoting an understanding of the political and cultural dynamics in the continent.