

VC REFLECTIONS

Just when we thought we had conquered 2019 with good health for our staff members; we end our first month in 2020 with the loss of one of our staff members; Sandile Saddam Dlamini, who has worked for MUT for more than 25 years as part of the Maintenance staff. Every employees' life is important and our thoughts are with the family and friends.

We begin the year with great hope that we will meet the objectives we have set ourselves at both personal and professional levels. We are deeply heartened by Council's approval of our MUT Strategy 2025, which we call the Diamond; and the approval of the top level organogram which should enable us to execute the functions we have set the Diamond to achieve.



Executive management is working hard in ensuring that the essence of the Diamond perpetuates in our veins and becomes a part of our lives. I take pride in the two young men from IT&N; Nkosana Jijimba and Sherwin Mudaly. Both these young men have been behind the success of the registration process at a time when the University system shut down. Their solutionist-driven approach is what will help turn our University around. We need more of this selfless and hard-working attitude if we are to conquer 2025! Thank you to all our registration team, your hard work did not go unnoticed.

BRAND POLICE KEEP EVERYONE ON THEIR TOES



SHAPE AND OWN THE FUTURE

Our brand police have been having their own sleepless nights trying to police brand transgressors. Now, staff are coming to admit guilt to avoid the fine-which may be a chicken, goat or a cow depending on the transgression. “We are quite happy with the brand uptake.

As an organisation, we are becoming more aware about protecting our brand and not mutilating it. Meanwhile, we are doing a thorough brand audit and would like to assist many departments to become brand compliant before the end of this term”, said Mbali Mkhize, senior director, MarComms. She further listed a few brand positioning campaigns that MarComms has embarked on.

Dr Enoch Duma Malaza, Vice-Chancellor & Principal, has set the tone for EMC on what executing the Diamond should entail. Directed by the strategy statement, *Shape and Own the future*, Dr Malaza, explained to EMC that there is now going to be a standing item on the EMC agenda on what gives you sleepless nights?

Catching all EMC members off-guard; the discussion seemed more worthwhile than anyone had anticipated. It showed the worth of a value chain within MUT. Rather than becoming a blamestorming session; EMC members became aware of how the challenges they face could be solved easily by bringing them to the table and finding solutions as a collective.



FROM BOYS TO MEN

On 22 January 2020 Dr Duma Malaza, the Registrar and MarComms management team met the new Convocation Executive Committee (ConvExco) for an introductory meeting. The President, Sandile Dlamini, his deputy, Thokozani Hadebe, and other ConvExco members Sanelisiwe Mnyandu, Sinothi Ndlovu, Sandile Mbonambi, and Dalinhlanhla Buthelezi are very clear about why they availed themselves for this role of leading Convocation. All are driven by a desire to create a third stream income for the University so they may contribute in addressing historic debt which they all acknowledge its negative repercussions for the institution; unite MUT graduates to ensure that they themselves open opportunities for one another; monitor

progress on forming MUT alumni chapters as well as ensure that MUT graduates get employed. Impressed by ConvExco's aspirations, Dr Malaza shared how Convocation is the life and soul of the University and have the responsibility to keep the soul of the University alive. He further shared with ConvExco the strategy statement to 'shape and own the future' as a guiding force behind MUT Strategy 2025. The President, Sandile Dlamini, (AKA: MaViews); speaking on behalf of ConvExco indicated that one of the first action points is to meet the MUT Founder and express gratitude on behalf of all graduates and later in the year host a thanksgiving luncheon for all those that were involved at the inception of MUT.



GEARING UP FOR AN INTEGRATED TEACHING AND LEARNING AND RESEARCH STRATEGY

It is not even end of January; already Professor Marcus Ramogale has convened a two-day Lekgotla to explore how the MUT research agenda could be integrated across Teaching & Learning. In the new structure; the Research Directorate led by Dr Anette Minnie now falls under DVC: Teaching & Learning.



“We have crafted a very strategic direction for research and aim to elevate and align research to MUT Strategy 2025. We are beefing up the directorate with post-docs, professors emeritus and most importantly will review how our areas of collaborative academic excellence (ACAEs): Human and Social Settlements and Development; Energy and the Environment as well as Health and Food Security”, said Prof Ramogale.

In terms of MUT Strategy 2025, the ACAEs represent areas in which the University is further developing expertise and activities to deepen its research impact through multi and interdisciplinary research and educational opportunities that cut across the faculties. These areas take on different facets within different disciplines and are not intended to replace or restrict academic endeavours in unrelated areas within the faculties.



SRC LEADERSHIP

It may be early days but so far, the consultative approach that Tumelo Moalosi, SRC President and Lerato Luthuli, SRC Secretary General seem to take has been commendable. Also, the kind of risks the SRC has been able to identify have been instrumental in creating a conducive consultative process with management. Student development leadership efforts at creating mature leaders is commendable.

