

23 November 2023

Dear Mr Dlamini
President of Convocation

RE: 2023 CONVOCATION TO BE NON-ELECTIVE

I trust you are well.

I acknowledge receipt of email regarding my decision that the 2023 Convocation AGM become non-elective.

In providing clarity regarding my decision, please note the following:

1. The Convocation Constitution is approved by Council, in this case by myself while I am in office.
2. The prerogative to have it amended lies with my office.
3. The Convocation Constitution is subject to the Statute, the Higher Education Act and any other relevant legislation.
4. In this instance, you should be aware that, among my terms of reference, I have to ***“identify and initiate processes and initiatives that will restore proper governance and management at the University”*** (Government Gazette number 47208 of 10 October 2022”.
5. The review of the Constitution of the Convocation is one such act I believe will assist in restoring proper governance at the university.
6. Besides this being a function bestowed on me by the Minister, clause 26.1 of the Convocation Constitution provides that ***“ the Constitution of the Convocation shall be reviewed every five years in line with the University Strategy and when there are changes to the internal or external operating environment, including legislation and other legal prescripts”***. My appointment is the type of change contemplated in the Convocation Constitution.
7. I need to consider the changes needed to the Convocation Constitution in order to put Convocation on the best path possible, in line with best practice, including ensuring that the eligibility criteria for the various governance structures are reviewed, including those structures, such as Convocation, that would elect members to Council, as you would have had to do at an elective AGM.
8. You would agree that such elections would have to be held when such review processes have been concluded.

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9. I intend to conclude the review of the Convocation Constitution, including eligibility for the Convocation Executive and membership of Council by June 2024, to allow for elections in July 2024.
10. Convocation will be consulted before any proposed changes are approved.

I trust that this provides you with the clarity you have sought.

Yours faithfully,



PROF LR VAN STADEN
ADMINISTRATOR: MUT

