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**MUT MINUTES**

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The minutes of the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of the **Convocation** held on **Saturday, 13 November 2021**, at **11h00** through Microsoft Teams and in the Dr Seme Hall (**Hybrid**).

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## **SECTION A: ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **1. Constitution of the meeting**

#### **a. Present**

Mr S. Dlamini	ConvEXCO President (Chairperson)
Mr T. Hadebe	ConvEXCO Member
Mr P.P. Masala	Acting Registrar
Ms S. Mnyandu	ConvEXCO Member
Mr D. Buthelezi	ConvEXCO Member
Mr S. Mbonambi	ConvEXCO Member
Professor M.M. Ramogale	Acting Vice-Chancellor and Principal
Ms M. Mkhize	Senior Director: Marketing and Communications
Mrs Z. Sishi	Director: Stakeholder Relations
Ms M. Baloyi	Alumni Relations Officer
Alumni List (63)	Annexure (A)
Alumni List	Annexure (A)

#### **b. Apologies**

Mr S. Ndlovu	ConvEXCO Member- Treasurer
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#### **c. Absent**

None

#### **d. By Invitation**

Mr G. Govender	Acting Senior Director: Office of the VC
Ms N. Mthembu	Entrepreneurship Coordinator
Mr E. Selebi	Representative: Entrepreneurship

#### **e. In Attendance**

Mrs T.P. Khoza	Senior Committee Officer: Secretariat
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The quorum was established at 11h08.

### **2. Opening and welcome**

- 2.1 The Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed all members present.
- 2.2 There was one apology received, as indicated under the constitution of the meeting.

**3. Confirmation of the agenda**

The agenda was modified to include an additional item that will be addressed once all other agenda items have been addressed.

- *The Revised Convocation Constitution*

The revised agenda was confirmed with the proposal for adoption made by Mr Shandu and seconded by Mr Mvelase.

**4. Declaration of a possible conflict of interest**

None of the members of the Committee declared any potential conflicts of interest.

**5. Announcements**

There were no announcements received.

**6. Standing items**

**6.1 Charter/Terms of Reference**

The Committee noted that the Charter/Terms of Reference would be developed and aligned to the Constitution when revised and adopted.

**SECTION B: ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE ON THE AGENDA**

**Adoption of the previous minutes**

**1. The Minutes of the Convocation Annual General Meeting held on 28 November 2020.**

The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Mr Hadebe and seconded by Mr Mdladla.

**Resolution:**

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Convocation held on **28 November 2020** were **confirmed** as a true reflection of the proceedings.

*At this point in the proceedings, the time was 11h13, and the meeting was postponed for a little break in order to address some issues with the sound.*

**Matters arising from the previous minutes.**

## **1. Schedule of Matters Arising**

The meeting reviewed the pending matters, and the following updates were received and noted:

- a. Under matters for approval, item (1) on the agenda for the 2021 Convocation AGM was the proposed amendment to the Constitution.
- b. The matter concerning the R200 Alumni Contribution Levy towards a Convocation Fund was included in the agenda and was discussed in item 3 (a) of the Chairperson's report.
- c. The item pertaining to the Treasurer's Report on Income and Expenditure was designated as item 3(b) on the agenda.

*At this stage of proceedings, the President handed over to the Deputy President of Convocation to chair the session.*

## **Matters for Discussion and Noting**

### **1. State of the University Address**

The Vice-Chancellor's State of the University speech report was accepted without further discussion. The Vice-Chancellor and Principal expressed gratitude towards all attendees of the meeting and offered apologies for the technical difficulties that had arisen, resulting in a brief recess. The presentation focused on the following aspects:

- a. To indicate what was occurring at the University in terms of curriculum development;
- b. The type of students that the University would wish to generate.
- c. His presentation touched on a number of important topics, including the following:
  - The "Frontiers of the Mind" lecture series is notable scholarship. For deeper understanding of the human psychology, this series is advised.
  - 
  - South African mental health is complex and requires collaborative action. Collaboration can help us build a better, fairer future.
  - 
  - Leveraging the mind can help one succeed. Understanding cognitive talents and limitations can help people use their minds to achieve their goals.
  - Baba Mthethwa's wisdom can help people handle tough life challenges. His experiences and insights can help us understand ourselves and the world.
  - How future empires will look is an interesting subject. It encourages us to imagine our global society in the future.

- Society has made progress, yet poverty persists. Social equity and justice necessitate ongoing efforts to address this issue.
- Academic miseducation must be addressed. Students must learn the abilities they need to succeed in the modern world.
- Political miseducation needs our attention too. People need accurate political knowledge to make educated judgements;
- A case for a mindset revolution;
- The problem of unemployment;
- The cashflow quadrant by Robert Kiyosaki;
- The one-dollar challenge;
- Born for greatness; and
- Food for thought.

During the proceedings of the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor introduced the "One-Dollar Challenge" Award/Business Capital as a donation to the members of the Convocation present at the event. Coordination of the One-Dollar Challenge/Business Capital Award was undertaken by the entrepreneurship lecturers in attendance, on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor. All 22 winners will be duly presented with their awards and will receive directions to communicate with the Entrepreneurship Coordinator, Mrs. Ngubane, for further guidance regarding the collection of their prizes.


Members were granted the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the information they had acquired from the vice chancellor's presentation. In conclusion, the Vice-Chancellor addressed inquiries and furnished elucidation on concerns raised in order to guide alumni regarding the University's obligations throughout and beyond their university years.

**Resolutions:**

- 1.1. The meeting covered a few important topics, including updates on the State of the University and presentations from the Frontiers of the Mind lecture series.
- 1.2. Additionally, the attendees expressed their appreciation to the Vice-Chancellor for the "One-Dollar" Business Capital/Seed Fund that was awarded to members of the Convocation.
- 1.3. Finally, it was resolved that the winners of the award should be in touch with the Entrepreneurship Coordinator to claim their rewards.

**2. The Report by the Executive Committee:**

**2.1. The Chairperson of Convocation Report:**



The Chairperson's report was presented during the meeting by the Convocation's President, covering several pertinent areas.

- a. He expressed concerns about the current acting appointments at the University and elaborated on the potential implications of this situation;
- b. Conveyed his appreciation for the former Registrar, Mr. Naidoo's service to the University and extended a warm welcome to the Acting Registrar, Mr. Masala;
- c. Shared with attendees that the number of MUT graduates had surpassed 41000, highlighting the institution's success in producing capable graduates;
- d. Discussed the MUT Statute's mandate on Convocation, outlining the obligations and responsibilities of Convocation members;
- e. Shared details about the Convocation induction, which is designed to welcome new members and provide them with an overview of Convocation's role and functions;
- f. Touched upon Convocation's plans to attract interest from graduates, outlining the strategies being employed to achieve this objective

The President then went on to discuss the Gauteng Convocation Chapter launch, which he described as a great success. He shared that one of the graduates who had attended the event had been offered employment on the spot, underscoring the value of Convocation events in building professional networks and opening career opportunities. He also expressed his appreciation for the MUT Master Class's donations and contributions towards the development of the institution, highlighting the importance of philanthropy in supporting educational initiatives. Lastly, he briefly touched upon Stakeholder Relations, underscoring the importance of maintaining positive relationships with all stakeholders to promote the University's overall success. He reported on the strides made:

- i. It was brought to the attention of Convocation that the Transformative Concept document has been submitted for consideration by the University Council. In light of this, he appealed to all members of Convocation to apply for Council positions when the call is made, in order to ensure that adequate representation is achieved.
- ii. He indicated that there were plans in place to invest in capacity-building strategies, such as summits, induction programmes, benchmarking exercises, and other methods of enhancing the skills and knowledge of those involved.
- iii. For the meeting to note that the Convocation Executive has been commended for its representation in the Council Executive:

- Convocation President, Mr Dlamini, as the Chairperson of the Finance and Investment Committee; and
  - The Additional Convocation Member, Ms Mnyandu, as the Chairperson of the Student Affairs Committee.
- iv. The matter about the involvement of alumni/convocation in the entrepreneurship-related opportunities of the University has made its way to the agenda-setting of the Convocation Executive Committee (CONVEXCO).


The meeting deliberated on the report presented. After all the discussion and clarifications provided, the Committee noted the update. The points taken from the discussion were:

- a. The motivating strategies to influence alumni to apply for posts when they become available;
- b. The view to have a dedicated office to deal with matters of convocation/alumni;
- c. The signage on the road leading to the main campus shall be erected to show directions to MUT;
- d. Requested a schedule for the launching of the MUT Convocation chapters be shared with members of Convocation;
- e. Concerns were noted and addressed to limit the cross-province benchmarking exercises due to COVID-19;
- f. To improve on communication platforms for the members of Convocation besides interaction in the form of an AGM;
- g. The Convocation plans were found silent on matters related to People Living with Disabilities, and the approach should be reviewed to be inclusive;
- h. The University to have systems to protect students involved in entrepreneurship activities;
- i. The Convocation Executive to communicate the way forward concerning the R200 contributions by convocation members.

The meeting adopted the Chairperson's report. The adoption was proposed by Mr Mthimkhulu and seconded by Mr Manana.

## 2.2. The Treasurer's Report:

The meeting received the Treasurer's update indicating that the Convocation Finance/Treasury Portfolio could not achieve much in 2021. The meeting noted the



unfortunate spread of the Covid-19 pandemic since March 2020. It was noted that the restricted government measures imposed to prevent the spread of the virus caused challenges for any progress aimed at fundraising strategies planned for 2021.

The report indicated that after robust and intense deliberations at the ConvEXCO meetings held, the Convocation Executive succeeded:

- a. To reach an agreement with the University to be allocated a budget for the year 2021;
- b. The allocation was made in accordance with section 9.1 of the Constitution;
- c. The budget would assist in implementing programmes, such as fundraising for the University and the Convocation programmes;
- d. The budget allocation subsequently gained support from all committees of the Council and had waited for the Council's approval;
- e. The Council then approved the budget as the University had allocated an expenditure allowance of R137 500.00 to run Convocation Executive programmes;
- f. At the time of reporting, the Budget expenditure was at R197 526.43;
- g. The programmes held were:
  - i. Constitutional Summit and Induction Workshop (R20 226.41);
  - ii. MUT Radio Orientation Lunch for CONVEXCO (R1 828.50);
  - iii. Gauteng Chapter Launch (R102 287.59); and
  - iv. Benchmarking Exercise at the Central University of Free State was undertaken to establish inter-institutional partnerships cost (R91 183.90).
- h. Other planned activities were:
  - i. Benchmarking visit to the University of Fort Hare planned to take place on 20 November 2021;
  - ii. Fundraising Gala Dinner scheduled for December 2021;
  - iii. Further engagements were held to secure Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) to benefit the University students and the means were made to acquire the Convocation Executive tools of the trade.



After all discussions and clarifications had been provided to members of the convocation, then the meeting noted and adopted the update. The adoption of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Mr Cele and supported by Mr Khumalo.

**Resolutions:**

2.1 The meeting noted the Chairperson's report with the adoption of the report proposed by Mr Mthimkhulu and seconded by Mr Manana.

2.2 The meeting noted the update on the Treasurer's report with the adoption of the report proposed by Mr Cele and supported by Mr Khumalo.

**3. Motions**

The Registrar confirmed that there were no motions received for consideration.

**Matters for Recommendation/ Approval**

**4. The Revision of the Convocation Constitutional**

The Convocation President presented the request for the meeting to consider and approve the Revised Constitution of Convocation to be forwarded to the Council for final approval as per the MUT Statute. He indicated that the Convocation Constitution was developed and approved by Council in 2019. However, the Convocation had identified several clauses in its Constitution that were not in line with best practices and needed it to be revised. The Convocation Executive Committee effected the revision under the guidance of the Office of the Registrar, and the Constitution was then presented to Convocation for consideration and would be forwarded to Council for final approval.

The record of amendments made to the Constitution was presented, and the following was noted:

- a. The constitution underwent amendments where certain sections were changed by omitting words or phrases, which were marked in "Red" in the amendments.
- b. The record of changes presented explained the amendments made from sections 3 to 26.
- c. The revised Convocation Constitution was submitted for review and recommendation to the Council for approval.

**Resolutions:**

4.1. The meeting recommended the Convocation Constitution for final approval by the University Council at its next meeting.

5.2 The Convocation Constitution should be forwarded to the Council for consideration and approval.



5.3 The proposal for adoption was made by Mr Mthimkhulu and seconded by Mr Cele.

**SECTION C: CLOSING AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

1. The date of the next meeting: To be announced
2. There being no further items to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 16h02.

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** .....  
Chairperson

**Attendance Registers: Annexure A**

 Annexure A- Attendance Register - 1
 Attendance Register-Annexure AA