

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



THE CONVOCATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Convocation held on the Microsoft Teams Virtual Platform at 17:00 on Thursday 8 December 2022

Present

The President of Convocation and acting Vice-Chancellor (Professor E Ramugondo), the Secretary of Convocation (RN Pillay) and members who had registered and, and whose names are recorded in the attached Appendix I.

Apologies

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor M Phakeng

1. Welcome and preliminary matters

(a) Welcome

The President of Convocation, Carl Manlan, welcomed all members in attendance and invited the Secretary of Convocation, Royston Pillay, to explain the housekeeping rules, which the Secretary did.

(b) Register

The names of those present are recorded in Appendix I to these minutes.

(c) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 9 December 2021

The minutes of the AGM held on 9 December 2021 were approved on a motion by, Keenan Hendricks, seconded by Dianna Yach.

(d) Matters Arising

There was none.

2. Report by the President of Convocation

The President of Convocation presented his report which is appended to these minutes as Appendix II.

3. Vice-Chancellor's Report

The acting Vice-Chancellor presented her report which is appended to these minutes as Appendix III.

4. Motions

The meeting proceeded to consider a motion for which notice had been received by the deadline, as follows:

4.1 Motion calling the Vice-Chancellor to respond to allegations of mismanagement

Evariste Umba, seconded by Sabakhe Mahlangu had moved that the Vice-Chancellor respond to allegations of mismanagement.

Evarist Umba, having regard to the current circumstances i.e. that the Vice-Chancellor was not present and an apology was recorded for her not being present, and that the Council had appointed an independent investigation panel suggested that:

- (i) The report of the independent investigating panel be circulated to members of the Convocation upon its finalisation by the independent panel.
- (ii) A special meeting or AGM of the Convocation be called to discuss the findings of the report.

The Secretary of Convocation clarified that Council had appointed the investigating panel to produce a report for the consideration of Council. The President mindful that the report may not be available to Convocation cautioned against adopting a motion requesting a report to which the Convocation may not have access to. Evariste Umba expressed the view that the Convocation, in representing the UCT Community, may approach the Council to request access to the report. A member suggested that the Chair of Council be invited to address the Convocation once the outcome of the report was known. The President undertook to inform the Chair of Council of this request and extend an invitation to the Chair of Council to address the Convocation. He was of the view that Convocation should not put the Chair of Council in a position where she was forced to address Convocation.

The seconder of the motion, Sabakhe Mahlangu, sought clarity on whether a special meeting of the Convocation would be held. The President confirmed that the communication to the Chair of Council, requesting access to the report, would include an invitation to a special sitting of the

Convocation and that it would be for the Chair of Council to accept or decline the request and invitation.

After further discussion during which members expressed concern about reports in the media which was the only source of information about the current crisis at the University and the need for the Convocation to be informed, Daniel Tate, seconded by Marian Jacobs moved as an amendment that:

1. Convocation expresses its concern with the ongoing senior leadership problems at the University.
2. The AGM of Convocation requests that the UCT Council finalises the investigation panel as soon as possible.
3. Convocation calls a special general meeting to discuss these matters at the soonest possible time after Council meets to discuss the Panel's report put to it.
4. Convocation asks the Chair of Council to attend a special general meeting of Convocation to discuss the outcome of the report by the Panel

The mover and seconder of the motion having accepted the amendments, Convocation proceeded to vote on the motion.

The motion was carried with forty one members voting in favour, one member against and one member abstaining.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 18:26

Appendix I

Attendance Register and Apologies

Appendix II

Address by the President of Convocation, Carl Manlan at the Annual General Meeting of the UCT Convocation held on Thursday, 8 December 2022

Appendix III

University of Cape Town Vice-Chancellor's Report to The Convocation of the University of Cape Town

Meeting Summary

Total Number of Participants

77

Meeting Title

UCT Convocation AGM - 2022

Meeting Start Time

12/8/2022, 4:30:09 PM

Meeting End Time

12/8/2022, 6:36:30 PM

Meeting Id

ec730ae7-fc40-4751-a3cf-adb8e7c4b923

Name	Surname	Name	Surname
1 Megan	Abrahams	40 Thabo K	Makgolo
2 Frank	Ametefe	41 Lwando	Maki
3 Hugh	Amoore	42 Denzil	Manel
4 Ruth	Amoore	43 Carl	Manlan
5 Sarah	Archer	44 David	Maralack
6 Kehinde	Awodele	45 Ibtisaam	Mathews
7 Jane	Battersby	46 Lance	Michell
8 Nigel Shaun	Bester	47 Valerie	Mizrahi
9 Leigh	Breda	48 Yonela	Mlambo
10 Prof Claude	Carignan	49 Goolaam	Mohamed
11 Michael Ian	Cherry	50 Reno	Morar
12 Tatenda	Chibisa	51 Bulelani	Mqolweni
13 Ennocent Tendayi	Chidawanyika (Guest)	52 Libo	Msengana-Bam
14 Dominic	Daula	53 Joyce	Mwangama
15 Cindy	De Oliveira	54 Martin	Nicol
16 William Hudson Barry	Dean	55 Lu	Nteya
17 Judith	Du Toit	56 Hanne	Nyokangi
18 Bruce	Fielies	57 Nadia	Padayachi
19 Barrett	Flowers	58 Gonda	Perez
20 Laurence	Gawronsky	59 Royston	Pillay
21 Steve	Goliath	60 Medee	Rall
22 Keith Adrian	Gottschalk	61 Elelwani	Ramugondo
23 Sue	Harrison	62 Marjorie	Raubenheimer
24 Keenan	Hendrickse	63 Rebekka	Sandmeier
25 Mulalo	Howell Mathode	64 Pamela Frederika	Scully
26 George	Hull	65 Olga	Sikhwari
27 Ellen	Hurst	66 Kamvelihle	Tabata
28 Marian	Jacobs	67 Daniel	Tate
29 Mbulelo	Kibido	68 Thando	Tsotsobe
30 Clive	Kirkwood	69 Evariste Umba	Tsumbu
31 Alain	Klein	70 Charmaine	Van der Merwe
32 Unathi	Kondile	71 Michael	Watermeyer
33 Michelle	Kuttel	72 Jennifer	Whittal
34 Dirk	Lang	73 Carolyn	Williamson
35 Iain	Low	74 Abimbola	Windapo
36 Marius	Lund	75 Hannah	Woolaver
37 Landa	Mabenge	76 Dianna	Yach
38 Breeze	Madadasi	77 Paki	Zandile
39 Sabakhe	Mahlangu		

Address by the President of Convocation, Carl Manlan, at the Annual General Meeting of the UCT Convocation, held on Thursday, 8 December 2022.

Thank you for attending our meeting today.

Over the past year, the focus has been on supporting the alumni office in its effort to engage with a purpose the community at large. Through this willingness to advance the work of the community, we are committed to listen and provide platforms for about 200,000 alumni to reconnect with the University with time and other resources.

The UCT community can be proud of some notable achievements.

- **# 1 ranking in Afrika**
- **UCT degree remains the top African qualification sought by employers**, and positions UCT to broaden partnerships for graduates
- **World class academics** (524 NRF-rated researchers, 30% A-rated; 42 SARChI chairs)
- **Students with huge potential** and influential and **globally recognised alumni**

With this in mind and in order increase our engagement with the alumni community, the Alumni Advisory Board will evolved into the Executive Committee of Convocation in order to provide a streamlined service to the alumni community. This will ensure that all alumni leaders work together for a common purpose. I would like to congratulate the Chair of the Alumni Board, Dianna, for her work in supporting our community and her constant engagement for transformation.

Moreover, we decide to provide a better framework and structure for the selection of the President of Convocation medal. We wanted to ensure that alumni around the world are given an opportunity to be considered and for their voices to be heard for this recognition. In this respect, we will not award the medal in 2022 but intend to do so in 2023. We will share more details in due course.

In 2023, with the support of the alumni office led by Sarah, we will be engaging you to participate in campaigns that seek to tell the story of what alumni around the world are contributing to. There are multiple stories of graduates that are leading change around the world. And in the midst of the transition, we should continue to support current students, future alumni and the growing community spread across the world.

Thank you,



**Vice-Chancellor's Talking Points
Annual Report to Convocation
8 December 2022**

Delivered by Professor Elelwani Ramugonda, Acting Vice-Chancellor

Good evening. It is my pleasure to provide you with the Vice-Chancellor's Annual Report to Convocation for 2022 this evening. This report will be available in the minutes of this meeting.

The VC would have loved to be available to present this report. She is extremely proud of what UCT has achieved through its staff and students throughout 2022.

The University of Cape Town (UCT) has successfully completed the final examination period of the 2022 academic year and we look forward to confirming and congratulating our 2022 qualifiers at graduation.

The Landscape of Higher Education is changing across South Africa

- UCT is deliberating on various proposed policy changes, initiated mostly by the Council on Higher Education (CHE), which will influence our planning of academic programmes and the size and shape process.
- Some of these recommendations would, in effect, redefine the concept of higher education.
- They include proposals to: recognize three types of public and private Higher Education Institutions, namely Higher Education Colleges, University Colleges and Universities, with the expectation that University Colleges could evolve into Universities;
- Other proposals aim to review the system of accreditation, including possibilities for credits to be allocated for informal and non-formal learning; a

redefinition of work integrated learning; and the promotion of multilingualism, among other goals.

- UCT is giving careful consideration to each proposed policy and our responses to them.

UCT has initiated strategic projects that will give effect to Vision 2030, the strategic plan of the institution.

- **Size and Shape 2035** is a university-wide process to review student enrolment and the student profile, the student experience, and how these impact on student throughput, the postgraduate student research environment, and the enabling environment for learning, teaching and research.
- **The Faculty Curriculum Change project** requires faculties to engage on curriculum issues within large undergraduate programmes, including selection and organisation of content and knowledge; pedagogy, credit loads, teaching and learning activities; and assessment practices.
- **We are taking stock of the impact 2016 Undergraduate Admissions Policy** on the student enrolment profile and student success. The 2016 policy uses academic merit as well as a range of indicators as proxies for disadvantage, but also diversity of experience and equity. The purpose of the review is to understand how effective the policy has been in opening access to the university and whether the students who have benefited from this admission policy have been successful in their academic studies.
- **We are also reviewing how to better deliver teaching and learning through blended and online learning.** Issues of access, throughput, diverse students, massification, the development of quality measures, blended learning, online learning, and guidelines for design decisions and compliance form part of our review of the UCT Online Education Policy of 2017.

- **We have introduced Amathuba, UCT's new digital learning platform**, to enhance students' experience with learning and creating course content, including audio and video presentations.
- UCT's new **five-year Employment Equity Plan** for the period 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2026 has been approved.
- In October, I [Professor Elelwani Ramugondo] launched a **Conversation Series with a focus on anti-racism**, which uses scholarly debate and intellectual engagements to advance social justice and the work of the UCT Dismantling Racism Strategy.
- This year, 300 staff and over 900 students participated in a **Critical Diversity Programme**, covering Anti-Racism Policy education and Unconscious Bias. The training is organised by the Office of Inclusivity and Change (OIC).
- The OIC also offers various educational interventions to address gender-based violence, including a six-week **'Becoming Men' Pilot Programme**. Incidents of reported GBV remain high and this worries us greatly, with an average of 80 new cases per year on campus, specifically in the residences.

UCT Research is focusing on collaborative projects to tackle grand challenges of our times and environment, including the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

- More than 40 project briefs have been prepared, of which six have been selected for funding, with a further 15 earmarked for development into projects with potential to attract external funding.
- Professor Sue Harrison, the DVC: Research and Internationalisation, is leading an **inter-faculty research conversation series** of lunch-time engagement sessions on inter-faculty and inter-disciplinary research and scholarship opportunities, to support the mission of Vision 2030, to "Unleash knowledge in and from Afrika to redefine and co-create a sustainable global future".

- To increase our delivery on the Sustainable Development Goals, the **Carnegie Foundation has funded the next round of our Carnegie ‘Developing Emerging Academic Leaders’** programme hosted by the Institute for Humanities in Africa to a value of US\$2.75 million.
- We are developing programmes to be funded through the Mastercard Foundation as part of the **African Higher Education Health Collaborative** (with a value of over US\$40 million) and the Climate and Sustainability programmes that are in development.
- The **Research Support Transformation Project** is profiling research and researchers, streamlining cumbersome research support systems, growing inter- and trans- disciplinary research as well as global and intercontinental partnerships, and improving financial management systems and funding flows.
- UCT Research & Innovation is positioned to incorporate **three additional spin-off companies**. This is a testimony to the practical application of research to respond to real needs.

Four Senior Executive vacancies are in the process of being filled

- The recruitment and selection process is at the shortlisting stage for a new University Ombud (Chairperson – Deputy Chair of Council)
- The Selection Committee is being constituted for the Executive Director: Human Resources (Chairperson – Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng)
- The recruitment and selection process is yet to start for the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Teaching and Learning (Chairperson – Chair of Council) and Dean of Science (Chairperson – Vice Chancellor)

Of course, the highlights of every academic year are the awards and benchmarks achieved by our staff members, students and the University.

- UCT will chair the International Alliance of Research Universities from next April.
- UCT will host the Times Higher Education World Academic Summit in 2026.
- UCT's **membership of the U7+ Research Alliance** was confirmed this year. Our participation starts in February 2023 with a new cohort of master's students in the combined fields of public health and social entrepreneurship funded by the Mastercard Foundation. UCT has agreed in principle to host the conference in 2025.
- **UCT again ranks as the best in Africa in all five major international university rankings** – Centre for World University Rankings, Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings, Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities, Times Higher Education and the US News & World Report Best Global Universities Rankings.
- UCT is proud to have **135 researchers on the University of Stanford's published list of the Top 2% of Scientists in the World**, rated on citations of their life's publications. Amongst these, 13 UCT staff are positioned in the top 100 in their field.
- The Graduate School of Business has retained its position as top business school in Africa in the 2022 *Financial Times* (FT) rankings. It remains the only MBA in Africa ever to make the FT's prestigious Global MBA ranking.
- One of the highest accolades that an academic staff member can receive is induction to **the UCT College of Fellows**. This year we celebrated five new inductions: Professor Nicholas Biekpe (UCT Graduate School of Business); Professor Anthony Figaji (Neurosurgery, Faculty of Health Sciences); Professor Ernesta Meintjes (Human Biology, Faculty of Health Sciences); and Professor Sharon Prince (Human Biology, Faculty of Health Sciences).

- The five **College of Fellows Young Researcher Awardees** for 2022 are: Dr Faisal Garba Muhammed (Sociology, Faculty of Humanities), Dr Katye Altieri (Oceanography, Faculty of Science), Dr Liza Cirolia (School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, Faculty of EBE), Dr Jeffrey Murray (School of Languages & Literature, Faculty of Humanities) and Dr Tshepo Mosaka (Public Law, Faculty of Law)
- Associate Professor Elena Moore, head of the Department of Sociology, is the latest recipient of UCT's **Distinguished Teacher Award**, based on the nominations of her students and colleagues.
- Professor Vicki Lambert's project, entitled, "**Evaluation of the Use of and Satisfaction with Outdoor Gym Facilities in the City of Cape Town: A Feasibility Pilot**", has received funding from the Cape Higher Education Consortium City of Cape Town Working Group.
- **We officially launched the Hasso Plattner Foundation-funded building in October** as part of a three-day festival of learning called *Design Thinking Matters Now*: the first of its kind in Africa. The UCT d-school offers the Foundation Programme for Design Thinking, a postgraduate course that opens the world of design thinking to students in all fields of learning.
- Three UCT student entrepreneurs excelled in the **Entrepreneurship Interschool competition final** in November. Matimba Mabonda won the Innovative Business Ideas category; Asonle Gevenga the Existing Business (Tech) category and Nicoline Kriek the Existing Business (General) category – each one of them was awarded R20 000. Furthermore, Matimba Mabonda was named overall winner of the EDHE Entrepreneurship Interschool and EDHE Studentpreneur of 2022 and walked away with R120 000 to put into his business to manufacture bricks from waste plastic.
- At the same event, UCT was announced **Entrepreneur University Of The Year** for the third time.

- **The UCT Student Leadership Academy Colloquium** in October provided an opportunity to reflect on how to foster knowledge of African leadership to impact global leadership, re-imagine leadership in a Pan-Africanist environment and consider the desired generational legacy.

Thank you for your support over this year. We look forward to more success in 2023 and we wish you a restful and safe December break.

END