



## UJ CONVOCATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) MINUTES 2022 2 SEPTEMBER 2022, 17:00, via MS Teams

### MINUTES

#### 1. WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

The President welcomed all the attendees to the meeting.

#### 2. DOCUMENT FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES

Constitution of the Convocation.

*Annexure A*

The President confirmed that Annexure A underwent an engagement process with all relevant stakeholders. The comments and recommendations received, were addressed. The Constitution was approved by Council.

#### 3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interests relating to the item(s) on the agenda either verbally or via the chat function in Ms Teams.

*Notes on the agenda-based declaration of interest (extracted from the form that is usually circulated and signed at the meetings):*

*Unless specified verbally, I declare and confirm that I have no direct or indirect financial, personal, or other interest in any matter to be discussed at this meeting and which entails or may entail a conflict or possible conflict of interest.*

*I further undertake that, should a matter not on the agenda come up for discussion in respect of which matter I may have a direct or indirect interest, I shall declare such interest and shall recuse myself whilst such item is under discussion.*

No interest was declared by any attendee.

#### 4. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

*i. The proposed agenda items received from members of the Convocation will be covered in the address by the President or the Vice Chancellor.*

*ii. Supplementary items to be discussed under Item 10.*

The agenda was confirmed.

## 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2021

*Annexure B*

The minutes to be shared via round robin with the wider Convocation for comments and approval.

## 6. ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONVOCATION

- 6.1 The President, Professor Tumi Diale, acknowledged the following individuals:
- incoming Chancellor, Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka;
  - outgoing Chancellor, Professor Njabulo Ndebele;
  - Chair of UJ Council, Mr Mike Teke;
  - Professor Marwala, UJ Vice-Chancellor;
  - Council members, Management Executive Committee (MEC), Executive Leadership Group (ELG), Senior Leadership Groups (SLG), Convocation members and the newly elected Executive of Convocation.
- 6.2 The President extended her appreciation to the outgoing Executive of Convocation for the support and wonderful work throughout their three-year term.
- 6.3 Professor Diale stated that the three constituencies that make up UJ Convocation, i.e. alumni, permanent and retired academics, must work together to enhance the reputation of the University.
- 6.4 The Executive of Convocation during 2019 – 2022 met in January 2019 and developed a strategic plan detailing identified projects. These projects included:
- Building or securing space for an Alumni House;
  - Establish Affinity Groups;
  - Securing funding to facilitate the construction of a female residence on the Soweto Campus;
  - Programmes addressing graduate employability;
  - Reaching out to retired academics through a UJ 'homecoming' event;
  - Establishing a Health and Wellness programme for alumni; and
  - Fundraising initiatives through the Fundraising and Development Office.
- 6.5 The COVID-19 pandemic halted the plan for a female residence on Soweto (due to funding from DHET being redirected to other important activities pertaining to COVID-19).
- 6.6 The projects that were able to move forward included:
- Graduate Employability Programme spearheaded by Ms Zanele Modiba;
  - Established eleven Affinity Groups spearheaded by the President in collaboration with the Alumni Office;
  - In 2021 the Gauteng Chapter and USA Chapter were established. In 2022 a Chapter was launched in Zimbabwe;
  - Fundraising Projects spearheaded by Ms Confidence Tshilande in collaboration with the UJ Fundraising and Development Office;
  - The 'homecoming' event for retired academics was held in 2021 and was aimed at connecting with retired academics (RAU and TWR);
  - The establishment of an Alumni House reached fruition;
  - A health and wellness benefit for alumni and their family members was secured.
- 6.7 In terms of media space, since 2019, eight alumni magazines were published. The 9<sup>th</sup> edition will be published in October 2022 and will focus on the Faculty of Health Science. The second Convocation newsletter was recently disseminated to the wider Convocation.

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## 7. ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

- 7.1 The Vice-Chancellor tendered his apologies and requested the Registrar, Professor Kinta Burger, to provide a report in his absence on various UJ matters.
- 7.2 The Registrar advised that over the past two years UJ has implemented a vaccination policy. When COVID-19 regulations were lifted and UJ resumed normal operations under the new protocols this year in June/July, it was recorded that 98% of staff, 95% of undergraduate students and approximately 70% of postgraduate students were vaccinated.
- 7.3 Many support interventions were implemented to assist the new intake of students who were completing their grade 11 and 12 schooling years during the COVID-19 period. The University also provided support to staff and students during COVID-19 in terms of mental health.
- 7.4 UJ shared much of its processes, practices and lessons learned during COVID-19 with other institutions.
- 7.5 Graduate employment is high on the UJ agenda. The University is ensuring high standards and relevance of its programmes.
- 7.6 Cultural and sport events that were placed on hold during COVID-19 have resumed.
- 7.7 Performance of the University as per the key indicators agreed on by management and Council was excellent during 2021.
- 7.8 The DVC: Research and Internationalisation provided feedback on UJ's research outputs. He reported that in May 2022, UJ submitted 2 800 research units for 2021.
- 7.9 The Senior Director: Central Academic Administration reported that UJ is the first South African University to have implemented a digital certificates platform and the use of block chain technology to safeguard the authenticity of the certificates.
- 7.10 The University is progressing well in term of its transformation agenda.
- 7.11 UJ is currently in a period of transition in relation to the following:
- Induction of the newly elected Convocation Executive;
  - The inauguration of a new Chancellor;
  - The current Vice-Chancellor will take up his position as Rector at the United Nations University. The shortlisting and interview process for a new Vice-Chancellor is underway.
- 7.12 A relook of UJ's strategic plan is in progress. The goal will remain the same, that is, to strive for global excellence and stature. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) forms part of the UJ Strategic Plan.

## 8. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Questions were addressed by members of the Executive Committee of Convocation, MEC members and Alumni Office. Some Convocants were advised to liaise directly with specific individuals at UJ where their question could not be fully addressed.

## 9. INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CONVOCATION

- 9.1 The outgoing President advised Convocation that this was the Registrar's last meeting. She thanked her for all the excellent work and wished her well with her future endeavours.
- 9.2 The President introduced the newly elected Executive of Convocation and wished them well in their three-year tenure.

**10. DISCUSSION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS**

- 10.1 The President thanked the MEC for agreeing to host the catch-up graduations.
- 10.2 Those students that had to do a virtual graduation during the two years of lockdown were given an opportunity to cross the stage and attend such an event with their parents.
- 10.3 Catch-up graduation ceremonies were concluded in August 2022.
- 10.2 Appreciation was extended to UJ for the successful delivery of the catch-up graduations.

**11. CLOSING**

The meeting closed at 18:10.