



UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

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COUNCIL RETREAT:

COMMUNIQUE

The **Governing Council** of the University of Ibadan went on a **Retreat** from **Thursday, 24 September to Sunday 27 September, 2009**, at *La Campagne Tropicana* Beach Resort, Lekki, Lagos “to provide an opportunity for members of Council to be better informed of the policies, operations and challenges of the University Administration with emphasis on the significance of the Strategic Plan as a veritable means of administering the University”. The Retreat provided an opportunity for Council to delve into the past, take stock of University’s present efforts and make strategic projections on the future of the institution in line with her Vision and Mission document.

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN, in his welcome address encouraged team spirit among members of Council and emphasized the need to implement austere policies and maximize available resources for the benefit and advancement of the University, its staff and students.

He pointed out that the challenges before Council were enormous, including but not limited to the following:

- government policies and pronouncements from time to time,
- the need to improve the University finances,
- the desire to consolidate on the transformation of the physical environment of the University
- improvement in the interaction between the University and its publics/stakeholders
- the need to improve the welfare of students and staff within the limits of available resources,
- the need to educate students and staff that the University business is everyone’s business.

In a goodwill message from the Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Sam O. Egwu delivered on his behalf by Professor Steve A. Okecha, the Technical Adviser to the Honourable Minister of Education, the Governing Council was charged to restore the University of Ibadan to its golden days especially against the background of its present poor global ranking, ensuring adherence to due process and pursue aggressive capacity building for global competitiveness.

Presentations were made by various resource persons, drawn from within and outside the University, on the following topics:

- University Vision and Mission: The Journey So Far,
- University Governance: The University of Ibadan Act and its Challenges,
- Government - University Relations: Current Realities,
- The Public Procurement Act and the University System,
- The University of Ibadan 5- year Strategic Plan,
- Teaching, Learning and Programme Development,
- Research and Innovation in University of Ibadan,
- Human Resources, Staff and Student Welfare,
- Gender Mainstreaming,
- Labour Relations and Crisis Management in the University System,
- Town and Gown and the Next Generation,
- Physical and Academic Planning of the University of Ibadan,
- Funding and the Financial System of the University of Ibadan,
- Fund Generation and Infrastructural Support at the University of Ibadan,
- Internationalisation of the University and Quality Assurance,

These presentations were discussed at length by members and some of their observations were:

- World Class Status** - Progress is already being made towards achieving specific goals that will fast track the University's envisioned status of a key player in the global academic arena enhanced by positive attitudinal change, general perception, fund generation, and implementation of specific objectives as captured in the new five-year-strategic plan document.
- Universities Acts versus Government Policies/Pronouncements** - there are still conflicts or grey areas between some government laws/circulars or pronouncements and the Universities Acts that continue to slow down or impede realization of the much touted autonomy of the Nigerian university system.
- **Industrial Action** - incessant industrial actions by the Unions in the universities have crippling effects on tertiary education in Nigeria; but the option of dialogue between the Government and the Unions remains the only viable solution.
- **Funding** - underfunding of universities by the Government remains a major challenge to advancing tertiary education in the country.
- **Scholarship Schemes** - Government is not adequately discharging its responsibility in the critical area of assisting the development of higher education through the provision of scholarships to deserving students.
- Production of A-5-Year-Strategic Plan** - the production of a five-year strategic plan by the University is a welcome development.
- **Information Communication Technology** - ICT is a veritable tool for teaching and cutting edge research.

At the end of the presentations and deliberations, participants made the following recommendations, that:

- a national discourse on funding of tertiary education in Nigeria be initiated;
- in the light of inadequate funding of universities, government policy, particularly on payment of tuition fees should be reviewed;
- scholarship, bursary and loan schemes should be resuscitated to assist deserving students;

- the University should commence the process of the implementation of the assessment of lecturers by students; which should be open and in consonance with the current trends globally.
- the current effort on ICT-driven improvement in teaching, research and learning in the University should be further stepped up;
- every lecturer should go through a formal induction course in pedagogy and teaching methodology;
- structures should be put in place and policies formulated for promoting sporting activities and recreational facilities in the University;
- virile and democratically elected students' union, which is a vital ingredient for leadership development, should be expeditiously restored in the University;
- policy should be formulated and specific structures established to guarantee stable academic calendar;
- Human Resources Development Centre should be established, to aid the development of strong and holistic human resources, and tap maximally the array of talents in the University;
- programmes should be fashioned out to improve the financial base of the University in the long run and reach out on behalf of the University to the outside and larger community;
- the current teaching methods, which appear suffocating should be gradually discarded, for learner-friendly and modern systems;
- the University should continue to upgrade existing teaching and research infrastructure to international standards;
- Human Resources Development Centre should be established to enhance the development, recruitment and retention of high quality staff;
- the University should continue to build on its record on gender mainstreaming;
- there should be Merit Awards for distinguished and accomplished individuals;
- the University should maintain its full-time undergraduate population at current level, considering limitations on infrastructure and movement in the direction of a postgraduate university; while further access to undergraduate programmes should be facilitated through Distance Learning mode;
- necessary attention should be given to realistic budgeting for various sections in particular and the entire University in general;
- the five-year Strategic Plan of the University should be updated and implemented, and
- on the present face-off between the Federal Government and the University Unions, the Retreat called on the Federal Government to resume negotiations with the Unions, while also calling on the Unions to suspend their strike actions in the interest of the educational system in the country.

Signed

Omotayo O. Ikotun (Mrs.)

Registrar and Secretary to Council