

# **REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION; CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION**

## **INFORMATION SHARING ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MPUMALANGA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Portfolio Committee on Education; Culture, Sport and Recreation (the Committee) took a decision to meet with the University of Mpumalanga (UMP) for information sharing and to strengthen relationships with the provincial Department of Education (the Department) in the spirit of alignment with the National Development Plan (NDP) towards eradicating unemployment, inequality and poverty by 2030.

A legal opinion was sought from Legal Services to determine and provide guidance on the nature of interactions envisaged to take place as the Committee has no oversight mandate over the University of Mpumalanga (UMP) and reports directly to the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology. Legal Services advised that the meeting must not be adversary in nature and that it should not be combative or contain elements of oversight and duly recommended the following outcomes for the meeting with UMP:

- Establish good working and stakeholder relations;
- Come up with mutually beneficial programmes; and
- Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Committee has a mandate in terms of the Rules and Orders of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, 2013 to ensure that the Department strives towards the fulfilment of Outcome 5 of the Provincial Outcomes, which is a skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path. Therefore, collaborations between the Department, the UMP and the Committee are crucial in fulfilling the broader mandate of government.

### **2. PURPOSE**

The main purpose in establishing a good working relationship with the UMP is to support the provincial Department of Education's academic programmes, which includes teacher development. The Committee also sought to explore new areas of collaboration on skills development and other education related matters, noting that the UMP is the only university in the Province and should be positioned as a beacon of inspiration for Mpumalanga.

### **3. METHOD OF WORK**

Invitations were issued to the UMP and the Department of Education. Internal sections in the Legislature such as Legal Services, Research and Communications were also in attendance at the meeting. Subsequently the Committee considered and adopted its report.

### **4. INTERACTION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MPUMALANGA LEADERSHIP AND THE PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

#### **4.1. Presentation by the Vice-Chancellor of the UMP**

Prof. T Mayekiso made a detailed presentation to the Committee. The following was noted:

- The UMP is a comprehensive institution offering academic programmes from higher certificate to doctoral degree. A total of 21 accredited qualifications are currently offered.
- The UMP is gradually phasing in all faculties to be a fully-fledged institution by 2025. It was noted that from 2020 -2025 the UMP will establish the Faculty of Health and the Faculty of Engineering.
- The vision of the UMP is to be an African University leading in creating opportunities for sustainable development through innovation, while its mission is to offer high quality educational and training opportunities that foster the holistic development of students through teaching and learning, research and scholarship and engagement, in collaboration with strategic partners.
- The UMP embraces the life ethos of Ubuntu, which forms the overarching framework for its values such as excellence, integrity, diversity, collaboration, adaptability, relevance and inspiration.

#### **Student affairs**

- It is expected that graduates of the UMP should be resourceful, responsive and responsible, with sound discipline; innovative and entrepreneurial effective communicators who are confident, whilst being ethically and socially aware and adaptable as change agents.

Students should realize their potential in the full spectrum of cognitive, social, aesthetic, physical and personal dimensions in pursuit of democratic citizenship.

A number of student opportunities were created since 2017 for students to travel abroad to other universities, these opportunities included the ENACTUS programme (a national programme for all universities).

In September 2017 the UMP also launched a campaign called "Love my Campus" at both Mbombela and Siyabuswa campuses to promote the love of the UMP so that all students can be responsible members of the UMP family who value the infrastructure, property and facilities. The campaign led to a number of student led projects such as recycling and greening projects.

**The Vice Chancellor reiterated that despite the recent student protests, the university infrastructure was not damaged.**

### **ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE BUILDINGS AT THE UMP**

- **Auditorium consisting of:**
  - 250 seat medium raked lecture venue
  - 12 seater computer lab
  - Seminar rooms, meetings rooms and offices
  
- **Science Building consisting of:**
  - 250 seat medium raked lecture venue
  - 146 seater computer labs
  - 35 seater research lab
  - 4 science labs (seating capacity of 233)
  - Seminar rooms, boardroom, committee rooms, meeting rooms and offices
  - Coffee shop, Student lounge and Book store
  
- **Executive Offices** housing the management offices for the Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellors, Council Chamber, Support Offices and external courtyard
  
- **Library and Information Services building consisting of:**
  - Library/resource and learning centre
  - Postgraduate research commons and associated library staff offices
  - Computer Learning and resource facilities
  - Seminar/general learning rooms and an auditorium
  
- **ICT building** containing teaching venues with 240 seats.
  
- **Residences** – with 150 beds capacity

- **Dining Hall Extension** – increases capacity of Dining Hall
- **Wellness Centre**
- **Bulk water and sewer infrastructure** comprising of 10km of water sewer pipelines and 3.1MI Reservoir and 2 pump stations

**The Committee commended the UMP for the construction of all the bulk water and sewer infrastructure, as well as the electrical infrastructure, which has greatly assisted the City of Mbombela Local Municipality.**

### **NEW INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE:**

The following **planned** infrastructure projects were noted:

- **Hospitality and Tourism Building, which will include:**
  - Teaching and administration facilities
  - A small training restaurant and training kitchens
  - Wine tasting, storage facilities
  - 25 training hotel rooms
- **Multi-Purpose Academic Teaching Venues comprising:**
  - 11 flat teaching venues
  - 7 raked teaching/lecture auditoria
  - 39 academic offices with associated staff, meeting and ablution facilities
- **Multi-purpose Admin Building comprises of:**
  - Two buildings (East and West building) with a public square in between
  - East building will house staff related admin facilities
  - West building will house student related admin facilities and server room
- **Lower Campus Civil Engineering infrastructure – completed works to include:**
  - New roads and parking areas
  - Water and irrigation networks, fire networks, storm water networks
  - Sewer reticulation
  - Chiller plant pipelines
  - Data ducts and electrical sleeves within lower campus
- **Urban Fabric Landscaping infrastructure– completed construction to include:**
  - Walkway connection between sidewalks and soft landscaping

- Access ramps and re-furbished amphitheatre
- Walkway between library parking and residences to provide universal access for people with disabilities
- **Lower Campus Chiller Plan (air conditioning system) of the UMP consists of:**
  - 4 Cooling type chillers, air handling units and reticulation
- **Lower Campus Electrical Engineering Infrastructure works to include:**
  - Installation of 3 x 1MVA Additional Emergency Generators
  - Completion of the ring main in the eastern lower campus
- **Conference and Wellness Centre - a 3 storey building comprising of:**
  - cleaners' staffroom with ablutions
  - flexible conference venue
  - covered deck, offices, circulation spaces, ablutions
  - aerobic/yoga studio, dining area, kitchen, lounge area and ablutions
- **Residence, dining and student support building**
  - The student support portion will consist of retail spaces for students' usage
  - The residence portion will consist of a range of differently styled single and shared rooms with amenities accommodating 184 beds and will also contain 20 self-contained bachelor units
  - The student dining hall will house a capacity of 750 students
- **Science Research Facilities will comprise:**
  - Undergraduate laboratories for Life Sciences, Natural Science, Physical Science and Geography, as well as postgraduate laboratories and office admin spaces
- **Parking Bay – the project will consist of:**
  - The completion of covered parking adjacent to the Science Building and Administration Building

## **2020/21 HILL AND ORCHARDS CAMPUS CIVIL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

The Committee noted following infrastructure projects **under construction from 2020/21**, comprising of:

- water reticulation, sewer drainage, irrigation water supply, data cable sleeve installation, road construction, storm water attenuation dams, increasing height of the Boschrand dam wall and construction of a new spillway
- Construction of MV and LV reticulation network, construction of 2 new switching station building and equipping of the sub-stations with MV switchgear.
- **Construction of Academic and Archive Building**
- **Construction of an Irrigation Lab**
- **Construction of a Security and ICT Building**

## **SPORT CODES AND SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE**

The UMP was proud of its achievements in sporting codes athletics, soccer, netball, volleyball and chess.

- Teams were sent from UMP to the USSA games since 2017.
- The Siyabuswa Campus Soccer team won the 2018/19 Dr JS Moroka Regional League and were promoted to the SAB League.
- The UMP netball team has also been performing well, achieving position 4 out of 16 university teams in 2019 at the USSA tournament.

The UMP provides state of the art sporting facilities for the students, priding itself on an 8-track tartan athletics field, Class B rated by the IAAF.

A multi-purpose hall provides for indoor sporting facilities and can also be used for functions as a hall, a medium size gym with state of the art equipment, a large swimming pool used for recreational and sporting purposes, 3 indoor squash courts, 1 soccer/rugby field and 1 practice field.

The Siyabuswa Campus has 4 athletic tracks, 4 hard courts for netball, volleyball, tennis and basketball, as well as a gym for the students.

## ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

The UMP target is a success rate of 85% and above (the norm is 77%). It was noted that in 2018 the average success rate was 87.3% across all modules, which was very good.

The UMP held its **first graduation** ceremony in 2016 and each year since then the number of graduates has increased as follows:

Year	Graduates	Qualifications
2016	177	1 (Dip. in Agriculture)
2017	203	4
2018	237	6
2019	408	9
2020	695 (expected)	15

As the numbers grow, the UMP will increase the number of graduation ceremonies held.

### Academic Offerings

The Committee commended the UMP for offering undergraduate to Masters Degrees within 5 years of its inception and noted the following summary on the UMP academic offerings:

The following Diplomas, relevant to the Province:

- Diploma in Agriculture
- Diploma in Hospitality Management
- Diploma in Information Communication Technology
- Diploma in Nature Conservation

The following Advanced Diplomas are offered, which replaces the former B.Tech degree:

- Advanced Diploma in Agriculture and Agricultural Extension
- Advanced Diploma in Agriculture and Agricultural Production Management
- Advanced Diploma in Agriculture in Post-harvest Technology
- Advanced Diploma in Hospitality Management
- Advanced Diploma in Nature Conservation

The following Bachelor's Degrees are offered:

- Bachelor of Agriculture in Agricultural Extension and Rural Resource Management
- Bachelor of Education in Foundation Phase Teaching
- Bachelor of Science in Agriculture
- Bachelor of Development Studies
- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Commerce

- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science (will be offered in 2020)

The following Bachelors Honours Degrees are offered:

- Bachelor of Agriculture in Agricultural Extension and Rural Resource Management
- Bachelor of Development Studies Honours

The following Masters Degrees are offered:

- Master of Agriculture in Agricultural Extension
- Master of Education in Early Childhood Education

The UMP also reported having PQM clearance from the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology to offer the following programmes, although accreditation for these were still awaited from the Council on Higher Education:

- Diploma in Animal Production
- Diploma in Culinary Practice
- Diploma in Tourism Management
- Advanced Diploma in Information Communication Technology

The UMP also has PQM clearance from the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology to offer the following:

- Postgraduate Diploma in Nature Conservation
- Postgraduate Diploma in Hospitality Management

The UMP also has PQM clearance for the following programmes, which will still be submitted to the Council of Higher Education for Accreditation:

- Bachelor of Hospitality Management (UMP will be the first institution to offer it)
- Bachelor of Administration
- Bachelor of Arts in Media, Culture and Communication
- Bachelor of Information Communication Technology

The UMP was awaiting accreditation from the Council of Higher Education for the following:

- Bachelor of Education Honours
- Bachelor of Arts Honours in Sociology
- Bachelor of Arts Honours in Psychology
- Bachelor of Arts Honours in Industrial Psychology
- Bachelor of Commerce Honours in Economics
- Bachelor of Development Studies Honours in Development Economics



The following programmes have also been submitted to the Council on Higher Education:

- Diploma in Animal Production
- Diploma in Tourism Management
- Master of Science in Agriculture
- Master of Science
- Advanced Diploma in ICT
- Bachelor of Administration

### SIZE AND SHAPE OF THE UMP IN 2019

The table below shows the composition of the UMP and some of the demographics:

	2019	%
<b>Total student number</b>	<b>3544</b>	<b>100%</b>
• Male	• 1719	• 48.5%
• Female	• 1825	• 51.5%
• African	❖ 3531	❖ 99.5%
• Indian	❖ 2	❖ 0.1%
• Coloured	❖ 9	❖ 0.3%
• White	❖ 2	❖ 0.1%
<b>FTEN (first time enrolled at a university)</b>	<b>1505</b>	<b>42.5%</b>
<b>Total student number</b>	<b>3544</b>	<b>100%</b>
Total Undergraduates	• 3506	• 98.9%
Total Postgraduates (Honours and Masters)	• 38	• 1.1%

The UMP reported that the targeted enrolment is 4218 by the year 2020. The enrolment has grown since 2014 as follows:

Year	Enrolment
2014	169
2015	868
2016	1262
2017	1789
2018	2457
2019	3544
<b>(Year) Projected enrolment as follows:</b>	
2020	4218
2021	5217
2022	6430
2023	7490
2024	8332
2025	8940

The table below indicates the **diversity of the UMP enrolment**, drawing students from eight of the nine provinces in the country, from other countries in Africa and international:

		%
South African	3514	99.2
SADC	28	0.8
International	2	0.1
Mpumalanga	2666	75.2
Limpopo	357	10.1
Gauteng	225	6.3
North West	25	0.7
Eastern Cape	44	1.2
KwaZulu-Natal	195	5.5
Western Cape	6	0.2
Free State	26	0.7

The table below indicates the **spread of qualifications conferred to date**:

		%
Diploma	1459	41.2
Advanced Diploma	76	2.1
Bachelors (360 credits) – 3 years	1068	30.1
Bachelors (480 credits exit level 7) – 4 years	417	11.8
Bachelors (480 credits exit level 8) – no masters needed	486	13.7
Honours	38	1.1
Masters (still working on selection criteria)	0	0

The table below indicates the **composition of the academic staff**:

		%
Academic staff (permanent full time)	114	100%
• Male	• 65	• 57
• Female	• 49	• 43
With PhD	36	31.6%
<b>nGAP lecturers</b>	12	100%
• Male	• 6	• 50
• Female	• 6	• 50

The UMP informed the Committee that 31.6% of lecturers with PhD was very good, as most institutions have about 20% of lecturers with PhD.

In terms of the gender composition reflected in the table above, the Committee was informed that the UMP was correcting the gender imbalance in the academic staff.

## **4.2. INPUT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

The departmental delegation was led by Hon MEC BA Majuba; the team consisted of the acting Head of Education, Mr. JR Nkosi and some of the management team from the Department (details are on the attendance register).

The MEC appreciated the presentation by the Vice-Chancellor noting that despite the UMP not residing directly under the Department of Education in the Province, the bulk of the learners enrolling at the UMP are learners from the Province who had gone through the Basic Education schooling system. The MEC thus looked forward to stronger links with the UMP towards preparing learners for tertiary education at the UMP.

The following issues in relation to the Department's engagement with the UMP were addressed by the acting HOD:

- Collaboration with the UMP in relation to demand and supply of teachers
- Teacher development in light of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial revolution
- Replenishing of scarce skills needed in the Province
- Engaging the UMP on some research projects as per SOPA 2019
- Engaging the UMP on the Department's move towards focus schools

## **4.3. OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION BY THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee thanked the leadership of the UMP and the MEC for Education for availing themselves at this historic meeting with the UMP. The Committee expressed its support for the UMP and the fact they are very proud of this institution, of which its establishment in the Province was long overdue by the time it was opened in 2014.

It was exemplary that the Province was making good use of the UMP, in that most of the enrolled students were from Mpumalanga. The fact that students from other provinces were also enrolling here was inspirational and also a boost to the economy.

It was reiterated that the functionality of the UMP was being monitored by parliamentary constituency offices and that provincial MPL's and national Members of Parliament work together to resolve protests whenever they arise.

The Committee noted the Department's projects in relation to teacher development, indicating serious gaps that need attention, especially Early Childhood Development (ECD).

### **Academic performance and administrative functionality**

The Committee commended the excellent academic performance of the UMP since conferring its first graduates in 2016. The high number of accolades and awards obtained by the UMP was also applauded by the Committee.

The following was noted:-

- All the existing faculties of the UMP were functional, with highly qualified lecturers;
- The two faculties to be added by 2025 are Health and Engineering; and
- Accreditation processes for some diplomas and degrees were still in process.

### **Interaction with the Department of Education**

The Committee appreciated that the UMP and the Department had already been interacting to a certain extent; however, it was envisaged that the collaboration will be intensified going forward after this Committee meeting.

### **Skills development for government officials and Legislature**

The Committee reiterated the need for a skills development unit at the UMP to address the training needs of the Legislature and government officials, as they were going out of the Province to be trained instead of using the UMP.

#### **4.4. INPUT BY LEGISLATURE LEGAL SERVICES**

The Senior Manager Legal Services reiterated the importance of the Legislature's collaboration with the UMP as a stakeholder in terms of the constitutional mandate of the Legislature, particularly in relation to comments on bills (legislation) processed, such as Section 76 bills and provincial bills. The formalization of this collaboration will greatly assist the Legislature.

#### **4.5. RESPONSE BY THE UMP**

In her response to the comments by the Committee and the Department, the Vice-Chancellor welcomed the opportunity to be involved in skills development for the Legislature and government departments at large.

She further explained that the Bachelor of Administration degree was yet to be approved and once this was done, the UMP could start offering short programmes to the Legislature and other government departments amongst others.

The UMP looked forward to collaborating with the Legislature and the Department of Education on research projects. Furthermore, the UMP was discussing collaboration with other institutions such as the Tshwane University of Technology.

In relation to teacher development and support, the UMP recently appointed the first Dean of the Faculty of Education at Siyabuswa Campus. It was envisaged that this will deepen the relationship with the provincial Department of Education as the issue of demand and supply of trained teachers was very important to the UMP, in relation to Fundza Lushaka.

In terms of the economic spin-offs for local people to benefit from the developments at the UMP, the leadership of the UMP had done their best to employ some of the employees of the cleaning companies that were contracted at the UMP.

The Committee emphasized though, that the purpose in collaborating with the UMP was *mainly* to focus on academic matters and other issues were secondary.

## **5. FINDINGS**

The Committee made the following findings based on its interaction with the UMP:

- a) The Department input in the meeting related to the following key issues:
  - Collaboration with the UMP in relation to demand and supply of teachers
  - Teacher development in light of the 4th Industrial revolution
  - Replenishing of scarce skills needed in the Province
  - Engaging the UMP on some research projects as per SOPA 2019
  - Engaging the UMP on the Department's move towards focus schools
- b) The UMP has appointed the first Dean of the Faculty of Education at Siyabuswa Campus.
- c) The UMP welcomed the opportunity to be a stakeholder of the Legislature in relation to processing of legislation, such as Section 76 bills and provincial bills and the offering of short courses in skills development.
- d) The Bachelor of Administration degree was still in the process of being approved; once it is finalized, the UMP will be able to offer short courses (skills development) for Legislature and government officials.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings above, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- a) The Department must intensify its collaboration with the UMP and submit a detailed progress report (with timelines) on the following areas as raised in the meeting:
  - Collaboration with the UMP in relation to demand and supply of teachers
  - Teacher development in light of the 4th Industrial revolution
  - Replenishing of scarce skills needed in the Province
  - Engaging the UMP on some research projects as per SOPA 2019
  - Engaging the UMP on the Department's move towards focus schools
- b) The Department must submit a progress report on its interaction with the Dean of the Faculty of Education at Siyabuswa Campus of the UMP in relation to teacher development programmes.
- c) The Legislature must formalize its collaboration with the UMP (sign an MOU) in relation to the processing of legislation and offering skills development programmes.
- d) The UMP is requested to inform the Legislature formally once the approval of the Bachelor in Administration is finalized and to provide information on the short course offerings that will be available for registration in the future, amongst others on Leadership and Governance.

## 7. CONCLUSION

The Chairperson would like to thank the Honourable Members of the Committee for their constructive input during this important meeting with the University of Mpumalanga. The Legislature staff was also thanked for the support provided to the Committee.

The Hon MEC Majuba, acting HOD and the departmental team were commended for prioritizing the Committee invitation. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor T Mayekiso and the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Ric Bernard, together with a team of managers were thanked for their detailed presentation on the UMP and for the robust interaction with the Committee.

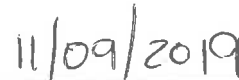
The House is requested to adopt this report with its findings and recommendations.

**The Department must implement the House Resolutions in this Committee report and submit a progress report to the Legislature by 31 October 2019.**



**HON. NE HLOPHE (MPL)**

**CHAIRPERSON: PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION; CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION**



**DATE**

