



Central University of
Technology, Free State

PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, FREE STATE (CUT) ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S COMMUNIQUÉ TO ALUMNI

Tuesday, 27 February 2019

Dear Alumni and Friends

Happy new year! May this year bring us, as the CUT family, closer together.

In the previous communiqué, I promised to provide you with detailed information regarding our future plans. Hopefully, you will avail your skills, resources and gratuitous service to the university, which are required for our plans to manifest. Hence, please allow me to share our achievements and plans with you.

In our strategy document, we identified the following seven key milestones as our focus areas for the next three years:

1. Amending the Alumni Association's Terms of Reference, for purposes of establishing sound governance

The Alumni Association invites all alumni to participate in the review of the association's Terms of Reference on Saturday, 02 March 2019 at the Bloemfontein campus.

Please note that this year, alumni, as critical stakeholders of the institution, will participate in the review of the CUT Statute. Therefore, all alumni are encouraged to submit their comments/inputs in this regard.

2. Establishing presence in each province through the formation of alumni chapters

Three chapters of the association already exist, namely the Gauteng Chapter, Motheo Chapter and Lejweleputswa Chapter. We paid a visit to the Gauteng Chapter in December 2018, with the intention of gaining support for it. However, due to inadequate participation, we were unable to relaunch the chapter. I would like to remind you of the importance of alumni's participation in chapter activities for the attainment of our goals.

We therefore urge all alumni in the various areas to contact us via the Alumni Relations Office, pledging your support for the chapters, and committing to participate in the establishment of chapters and committee structures. This will ensure that we keep in touch with you, and vice versa. The Alumni relations Office may be contacted through the alumni link in CUT,FS website.

3. Developing effective stakeholder relations

In our quest to serve our alumni, we committed to support and recognise those alumni who continue to keep CUT's name high in their communities and through other associations. We further seek to develop strong brand ambassadors in our country and continent through campaigns, awareness creation, and brand positioning. We want our alumni to be proud to be associated with the CUT brand, and to continue to support this institution.

We will host the Annual Reunion Awareness Campaign in the last quarter of 2019, to inform alumni of the 2021 CUT Reunion Launch, a deliberate reunion of different classes and cohorts, uniting the former Technikon Free State, Vista Welkom Campus and CUT graduates in fun, networking, opportunity sharing, and reflection. Watch this space for more information in this regard.

Another major event that will be held later in the year, is the Alumni Chancellor's Awards, where the excellence of alumni from various walks of life who live the values of CUT will be recognised, to show them that we appreciate our brand ambassadors.

4. Building and updating a database of contactable alumni

Since the establishment of the Technikon Free State in 1981 and the merger with the Vista Welkom Campus in 2004, the institution has conferred more than 59 000 qualifications, which means that we have this number of alumni to reach out to. However, we have not yet reached our target of reaching 15 000 graduates/alumni by May 2021, and your assistance in meeting this target would be greatly appreciated.

We are looking into a functional and interactive database that will assist us to reach the above-mentioned target through functions such as social media searching and tracing, to enable us to reach out to as many of you as possible. Once we have obtained your contact information, we will share a survey with you, for you to provide us with information that can assist the institution to support and keep in touch with you.

5. Developing effective communication with alumni

We are living in an era of technology and social media. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has revolutionised the way people interact and keep in touch. We are currently reviewing a system that can perform multiple functions, which would enable us to keep in touch with you via your preferred social media platform(s). The system will support Short Message Services (SMSs), WhatsApp messages, Facebook, e-mail, fax and several other channels of communication. Furthermore, updates on our plans and other information will be shared with you via newsletters and the CUT website.

6. Developing and securing an approved budget for operations

The CUT Council has approved a budget allocation for the Alumni Association to enable us to carry out the operational activities required to execute our strategy. Management has supported the strategy, and will oversee the implementation thereof, whilst the Executive Committee will provide strategic oversight and support to the responsible units.

The Treasury has been tasked with overseeing the development of a policy on raising funds to be used for the payment of graduates' historical debt, which continues to exclude several graduates from economic participation because of blacklisting or the

withholding of certificates. The institution will then create a fund to ensure that received donations are used for their intended purpose.

7. Strengthening the secretariat services of the association

Without institutional support through the Secretariat, the association may not be able to achieve its plans. Hence, it is important for us to strengthen our relations with the Office of the Registrar, as the custodian of intellectual property at the institution. Any policy, endowment or approval requires the support and co-operation of the Registrar's Office, and thus a continuous effort is made to realise this objective. Work in this regard is progressing well.

As the Executive Committee, we remain committed to focusing on areas and activities that will add value to you, our alumni, and, most importantly, to the university, over the next three years. These focus areas will include addressing the matters pertaining to historical debt, outstanding graduation certificates, blacklisted graduates, and current higher education challenges faced by young South Africans, particularly students and graduates of CUT.

We have all the support and resources we require to achieve our goals, and it is thus within our hands to ensure that these goals are reached. Please consider participating in the association, wherever you may be in the country. **You can add value – ask me how.**

Stay blessed!

Gama Major Cindi
President of the CUT Alumni Association