



Memorandum

To: CUT ALUMNI AND CONVOCATION

**From: DR N MRWETYANA
REGISTRAR / SECRETARY TO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Date: 23 JULY 2014

Priority: HIGH

Subject: CHANGES ON THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION 2014

BACKGROUND

CUT seeks to revitalise the Convocation and to build a vibrant Alumni Association. To this end, a Convocation Task Team was established and tasked with the responsibility to draft a constitution for Council approval.

The amended Constitution Framework was discussed and accepted by the Convocation Task Team on 5 February 2014 and by MANCOM on 18 February 2014. On 03 March 2014 the proposed constitution was discussed and supported by Exco for Council approval. Council approved the constitution on 29 May 2014.

MAJOR CHANGES

1. Name, from Convocation to Alumni Association

Convocation, as explained in the Statute, is restrictive in that it limits membership to those with formal qualifications from CUT, and academic staff. Alumni Association, on the other hand, is more inclusive. Though it still includes convocants as we know them, namely those who qualified with Diplomas and Degrees, the proposed name also includes those who did short credit bearing courses at CUT, and any other persons that are academically affiliated to CUT, subject to the approval of the Council.

2. Voting method from physical presence in an AGM, to electronic voting.

The old Constitution provided for an annual AGM, where the President will be elected, and only a minimum of 50 members of the Convocation, would take

decisions for the entire Convocation. This provision was found to be undemocratic. The amended constitution provides for electronic voting, affording a great majority of alumni to participate in the election process. The President, Vice-President, Treasurer and the Alumni Parliament would be elected by means of electronic voting by alumni across the country and the world, who may not be able to attend the AGM physically. This will take place by means of a nomination system. The AGM will merely confirm the results of such a voting process.

3. The amended constitution also provides for the election of an Alumni Parliament and an Executive

The new constitution now provides for the election of an Alumni Parliament and an Executive from Alumni chapters. The composition and functions of the Alumni Parliament, as well as the composition and functions of the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association, are explicit in the proposed constitution.

4. Introduction of cohorts

It has been observed that the Convocation is usually dominated by young alumni and the participation of mature adults is limited. The concept of cohorts, alumni from a designated period, is incorporated. In that way, there will be diversity in the Alumni Association.

5. Funding

CUT will provide the relevant unit, normally the Alumni Relations Office, with a reasonable budget for operating costs, which may include funds for the Executive Committee to attend quarterly meetings.

The annual meetings of the Alumni Parliament shall be funded from within the funds generated by the Alumni Association, with whatever subsidy the university may afford to provide when deemed affordable.

The Alumni Association shall generate its own funds, for which the Alumni Parliament and the Executive Committee will account.

6. Way Forward

CUT is currently planning the nominations and electronic voting process. Convocants and Alumni are urged to read the documents that will be circulated from now on.



**DR N MRWETYANA
REGISTRAR / SECRETARY TO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**