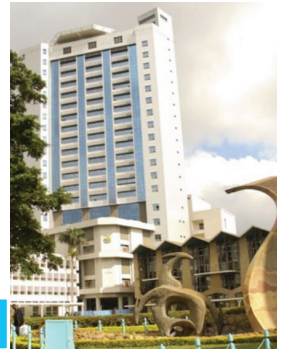




# The Academic

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

A Newsletter of the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs



Issue: 8

January - February 2021

## UoN Students Undergoing Biometric Registration



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## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**T**he period January – February 2021 was an active period in the University Calendar coinciding with the beginning of the year. The period marked the resumption of activities after the Christmas Break, resumption of face to face learning for first year students in the Colleges of Humanities & Social Sciences; and Education & External Studies, Consensus on Curriculum Reforms, mounting of the first Virtual Open Day, University Prayer day and the continued fight against the Covid 19 pandemic.



Prof. Julius Ogeng'o  
DVC Academic Affairs

The most significant output was in Curriculum Reforms. As one of the five pillars in the Vice Chancellor's Reform Agenda, the significant milestones achieved in this process will see a more lean, dynamic and value driven programme portfolio that will increase uptake of flagship programmes, improve efficiency of management at Faculty/School level, enhance response to industry needs and importantly cement the University of Nairobi as an innovative and responsive institution for higher education and research. The road towards achieving these began with a self-evaluation by Departments and culminated in the approval of the Report by University Senate for implementation.

The University has continued its Virtual Teaching and Learning in strict adherence to the Covid 19 Pandemic Guidelines by the Government of Kenya and Ministry of Health Protocols. Consequently, the activities lined up were held virtually. One key activity and the first of its kind was the University Open Day, that took place virtually on 18th and 19th February, 2021. This event held through a dedicated website allowed prospective students to interact with the faculty from the various Schools/Institutes within the University giving programmes information and career advice through organized career webinars throughout the two days.

The University also remained active on other fronts including a beginning of year prayer day held virtually and a multi-denominational liturgy prepared as the University seeks God's grace and guidance through 2021. For these and other articles please read through our 8th Issue...



## CURRICULUM REFORMS

The University of Nairobi embarked on a five point reform agenda driven by the need to ensure efficiency and dynamism in its operations. A key pillar of the reform agenda is Curriculum Reforms spearheaded by the Academic Affairs Division to ensure programmes offered meet global requirements, remain market driven, are sustainable and offer solutions in the dynamic global landscape. This reform agenda is also in tandem with the changing regulatory and statutory frameworks.



*The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Prof. Julius Ogeng'o giving his remarks at the College of Agriculture & Veterinary Sciences during the College Academic Board meeting convened to discuss Curriculum Reforms*

### Programme Rationalization

The first part of the reforms kicked off in earnest as the Quality Assurance Section embarked on an exercise to facilitate review of the Undergraduate & Postgraduate programmes on offer at the University. The process was guided by the Universities Act 2012; University Regulations, 2014; CUE Standards and Guidelines 2014; University of Nairobi Charter, 2013; Statutes, 2013; and the various regulatory and administrative frameworks. The team looked through programme enrolment and graduate throughput over the past five years to determine programme demand, relevance in offering solutions for present and future global needs. Further, the team made recommendations to revamp or archive programmes identified not to have met the set criteria. Further, the University set out to identify and grow flagship programmes which will ensure it leverages on its niche areas and offer superior programmes comparable with the best ranked Universities globally.

### Collegial Approach

Stakeholder involvement played an integral role in these strategic engagements with the Faculties/Schools through the Colleges, to further fine-tune the recommendations by Academic Affairs Division on programmes offered in their Faculties/Schools.

### Benefits

The overarching aim of this activity then, is to achieve a lean portfolio of quality, relevant, impactful, contemporary, cost-effective and sustainable programmes; that can be offered effectively and efficiently



**CURRICULUM REFORMS**

in the University, based on contemporary metrics. These Programmes will meet regulatory and statutory requirements.

This is without doubt a bold step towards maintaining a lean and highly market driven programme portfolio that will ensure students undertaking these courses provide solutions to present and future challenges arising from the various disciplines. This cost efficient approach will also enable the University improve on the management of these programmes.



*The DVC Academic Affairs Prof. Julius Ogeng'o addressing participants during the College Academic Board meeting at CHSS. Inset Left: Mr. Michael Wangai (left) Director Quality Assurance making a presentation during the CBPS CAB Meeting. Inset Right: The CAB members for CAVS following the meeting on Curriculum Reforms*



**HUMANITIES & EDUCATION STUDENTS REPORT FOR ON-CAMPUS LEARNING**

**T**he University of Nairobi opened its doors for On-campus learning to first year students who were admitted in September 2020 in the Colleges of Humanities & Social Sciences; and Education and External Studies. This cohort reported for their 2nd Semester, having completed their 1st Semester virtually in January. As expected the students were eagerly awaiting the physical reporting to the various University of Nairobi Campuses to fulfill their academic objectives.



*A First Year Student undergoing Biometric Registration as they reported for Semester 2*

The University of Nairobi Faculties/Schools and Campuses ensured strict adherence to the Government of Kenya Guidelines and Ministry of Health Containment measures for the control and prevention of Covid 19. Hand washing areas, physical & social distancing measures and proper wearing of face masks are strictly adhered to within the University premises. In the halls of residence, the University ensured these guidelines are followed and social distancing is maintained within the halls.

The Faculty Administrators were at hand to receive these students as they took them through the Biometric Registration process and signing of nominal roll.



**UON COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER IN PRAYER**

**T**he University of Nairobi community, as is the norm, came together to give thanks to the Almighty God for the successes of the year 2020 and seek spiritual guidance for the year 2021. The prayer day was held on 15th January, 2021 at the Taifa Hall and Livestreamed through the University of Nairobi YouTube and Social Media pages.



*The University Management led by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Stephen Kiama (second right), DVC FPD Prof Hutchinson Jesang (right), DVC AA Prof. Julius Ogeng'o and DVC HRA Prof. Enos Njeru (extreme left) join other University staff during the Annual Prayer Day*

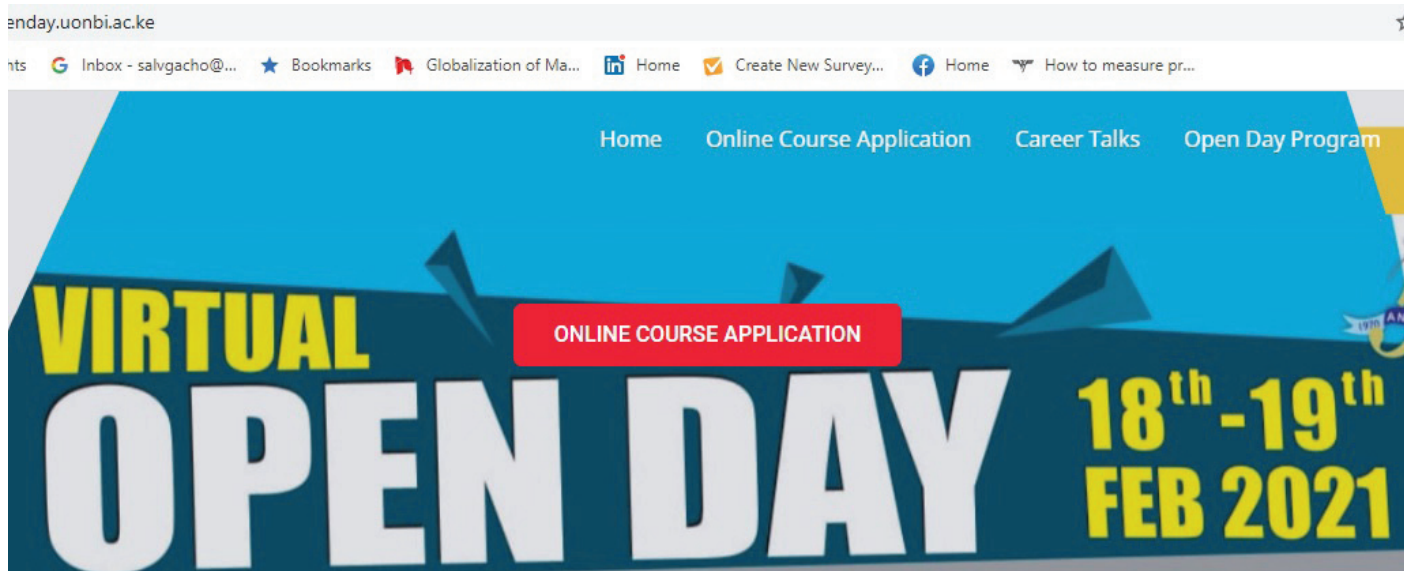


## UNIVERSITY HOLDS FIRST EVER VIRTUAL OPEN DAY

The University of Nairobi successfully held its first ever virtual Open Day on 18th and 19th February, 2021. A first of its kind, the University provided a virtual platform for engagement with stakeholders and the public on programmes offered, admission requirements and mode of study. The public also got to attend organized webinars on career advice and guidance moderated by professionals who have excelled in various disciplines. The Colleges, Faculties/Schools each got a virtual Booth to interact and display their programmes to the public. This Virtual Open Day, facilitated through a website created by ICT remains active thus the engagement remains continuous after February 19, 2021, to June 30, 2021.

### Organization

The University of Nairobi has come of age in organization of virtual forums since the inception of online teaching and learning. Further, the Government of Kenya and Ministry of Health Guidelines and Protocols on meetings enabled the University to strongly consider online platform to ensure continuity of its Marketing and Brand activation agenda. The University ICT Centre, designed the mini website that was used as a platform for engagement. The platform enabled virtual interaction through video, chat and webinars. The system also provided links through social media engagement.



**Skills and Competencies for Emerging Trends |**

*The Virtual UoN Open Day website dedicated for interaction between faculty and potential students*

**UNIVERSITY HOLDS FIRST EVER VIRTUAL OPEN DAY****The Event**

The event themed “Skills & Competencies for Emerging Trends” was officially opened by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, Prof. Julius Ogeng’o, who welcomed and invited the public to visit the interactive website to discover more about the revised programme portfolio, engage with the University resourceful faculty and make good decisions for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes leading to rewarding careers. The DVC further stated the role of the University of Nairobi in producing versatile graduates well equipped with skills to provide solutions for the emerging trends like outbreaks of infectious diseases, climatic change, Artificial Intelligence, among other trends.

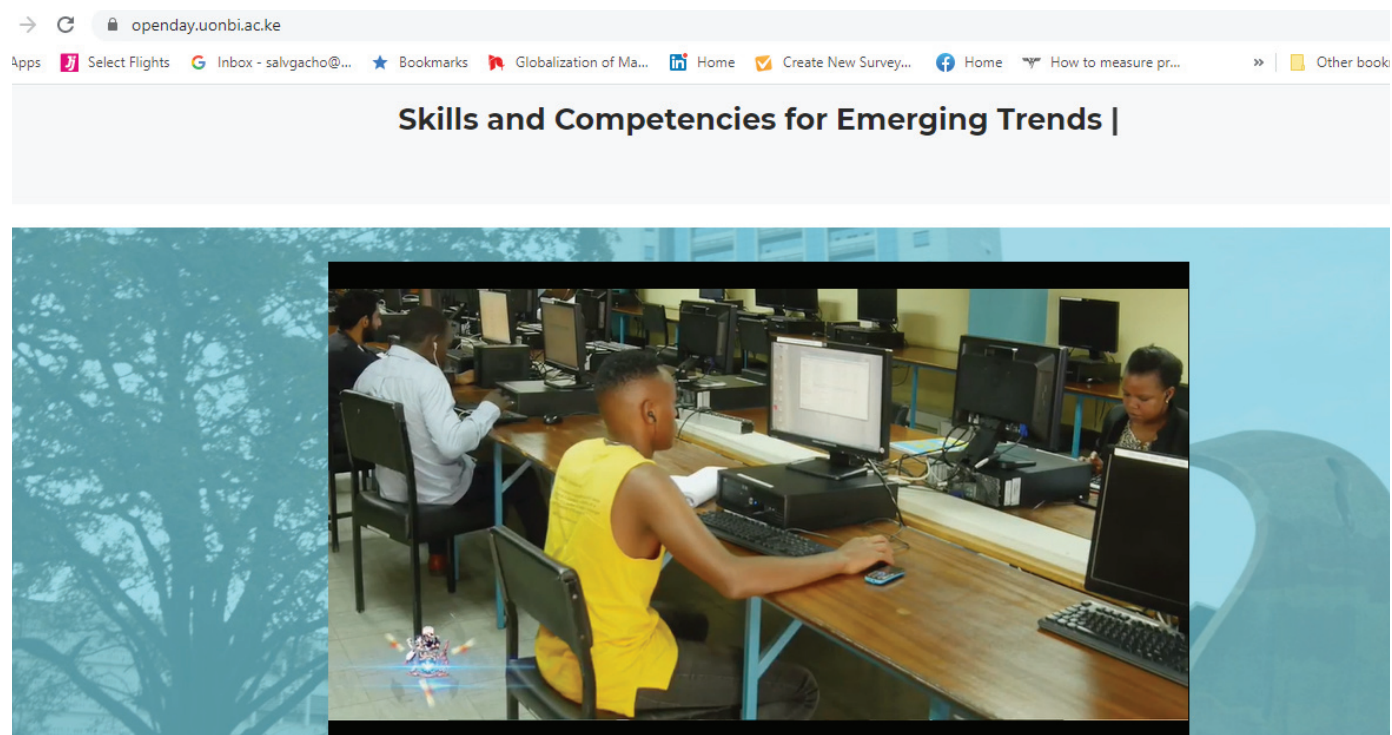
**Career Advisory Programme**

The University organized 10 webinars on career guidance during the two day event touching on various disciplines. The faculty, Alumni and invited industry professionals advised students on the programmes, career paths and soft skills they need to be on top in this dynamic environment. In the Mombasa Campus Virtual Booth the students were taken through webinars on Career opportunities in Project Planning, Business and Law over the two days. The University of Nairobi Corporate organized webinars on the following topics;

- Pursuing Rewarding Careers
- Job and Skills for the Future Workplace
- Opportunities in the Digital Age
- Research as a Career
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Kisumu Campus mounted a webinar moderated by the Deputy Governor of Kisumu County on Skills and Competencies for Emerging Trends in the Lake Region. These webinars gave an opportunity for industry, Academia and prospective students to interact one on one.

Moving forward the University of Nairobi will regularly hold these virtual open days to ensure continued interaction with the public on the online space.



*Students log on to the UoN Virtual Open Day*



## ORIENTATION WORKSHOP FOR UNSA LEADERS, 2020/2021



*The newly elected UNSA Leader following the proceedings during the Induction/Orientation Workshop at Kcb Leadership Centre, Karen*

The University of Nairobi held an Induction and Orientation workshop for the newly elected UNSA leaders on 26th February 2021. The DVC Academic Affairs, Prof Julius Ogeng'o took the student leaders through their duty to the University and student body at large. He urged the students not to forget their main goal which is academics and should purpose to excel academically even as they lead. The students' leaders play a key role in the University Management and Administration. The DVC Academic Affairs further emphasized the importance of the leaders understanding their role in management and taking it seriously. This orientation further cemented the cordial working relationship between University Management and the Student representatives, creating harmony and Unity of purpose. Leading during these extra ordinary times, the leadership and University management remain committed in delivery of service through the virtual channels put in place.

## FOSTERING EXCELLENCE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The University of Nairobi continues to provide a platform for excellence for students pursuing different disciplines as they follow their dreams using their talents and skills. Mr. Ferdinand Omanyala a Bachelor of Science student and an avid athlete won the 10th heat in 10.11 seconds; during the Athletic Kenya Relay Series held on 23rd January, 2021 at the Nyayo National Stadium. The University provides facilities to encourage students to take up sports during their studentship at the University. Known for top sports teams like the former Rugby Kenya Cup champions Mean Machine, the Basketball team christened 'the Terrorists' the University continues to produce holistic graduates who make a positive impact in the society. Hongera Ferdinand!



*UoN BSc Student Ferdinand Omanyala races to victory during the AK Relay Series at Nyayo National Stadium*

## UON MAINTAINS DOMINANCE ON VIRTUAL MARKETING



*Ms. Salome Abuuru assisting a potential student during the Higher Education Exhibition at Sarit Expo Centre*

**T**he University of Nairobi sustained the promotion of its programmes and the continued brand awareness on the digital space when they participated in the first Virtual Exhibition for Higher Education organized by the Nation Media Group on 22nd and 23rd January, 2021. The Exhibition is ongoing on the virtual space with the University Online Booth still receiving enquiries and assisting potential students make their applications for various programmes in the institution. The platform further provides an opportunity for students to receive career guidance as they make their choice for University Education. “This forum is useful for one on one engagement between Students/guardians and the University,” emphasized Mr. Johnson Kinyua Dean of Students UoN & Director UoN Career Services, as he made his remarks as a panelist during the event.



## UON STRATEGIC PARTNERS JOIN IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID -19

The University of Nairobi Alumni Association joined the University of Nairobi in the containment of Covid-19 as they donated hand washing stations to the University for use by staff and students as they report back for physical learning. The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Prof. Julius Ogeng'o received the donation that will go a long way in ensuring safety for both students and staff of the University. The DVC, observed that hand washing is one the effective measures for covid-19 containment. Hand washing will help save lives. The University has continued to engage its partners and stakeholders as they continue to ensure strict adherence to the Government of Kenya & Ministry of Health Guidelines on Covid-19 containment.

### Qwetu Student Residences

Qwetu Student Residence, a key partners of the University, donated hand washing basins and 8 benches to the University of Nairobi College of Health Sciences. The donations not only cements the partnership with the hostel providers but also go a long way in promoting student life in campus and safeguarding the health of students as they strictly adhere to Ministry of Health Guidelines on hand washing.



*The DVC AA Prof. Julius Ogeng'o (right) commissioning the hand wash stations donated by UONAA INSET: The DVC AA receive hand washing basins and benches from Qwetu Student Residences*





**Q:** How do we access the Telkom data bundles for continuing students?

**A:** Student to register their intent for facilitation by updating their profile on smis, the request is considered an alert sent to the Smis portal on instructions on collection at the preferred Telkom outlet indicated.

**Q:** How do I set up a University email account?

**A:** Login to your smis portal on the home page click update my profile and follow the instructions to create your uonbi email.

**Q:** The fees for online programmes mode similar to the face to face mode of learning?

**A:** The fee remains similar until further communication.

**Q:** How can I access the fee structure for the UoN Online programmes?

**A:** The fee structures for UoN programmes are posted on the website. E.g. Engineering fee structure link below <https://engineering.uonbi.ac.ke/admission-content-type/bachelor-science-civil-engineering>

**Q:** Is Mombasa and Kisumu Campuses teaching on the online platform?

**A:** Yes, for more information contact the class representative

**Q:** How will the CATs and Exam be administered?

**A:** The CATs and Examinations will be conducted online on the E-Class portal. Students will be trained on use of the E-Class portal for online Learning and examinations.

**Q:** What happens to students under government mandatory quarantine?

**A:** Students are advised to logon and attend classes using their smart phones.



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### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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