



# The Academic

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

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

Issue: 10

May - June 2021



## UON MARKS SPORTS DAY



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## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**T**he period May – June 2021 saw a lot of student focused activities and initiatives designed to remind us all of why the University of Nairobi remains a beacon of academic excellence among its peers. The University marked the 2nd edition of the Prize Giving Ceremony awarding alumni and students who were outstanding in the Academic Years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019. Once again the University of Nairobi partners and stakeholders played a key role by donating prizes for various categories. Over 400 donors from industry, stakeholders and trusts came on board to collaborate with the University to make this event even bigger and better.

The University further engaged with the UNSA Leadership in a two day retreat in Mombasa as a

way to empower and sensitize the Student leadership on what it means to be leaders in the University of Nairobi. This well-structured retreat also allowed the UNSA Leaders to give their plan and expectation to management.

Importantly the University remained committed to the Vice Chancellor's 5 point Agenda in enhancing vibrancy, relevance and sustainability of the University. Towards this end the Academic Affairs Division was in the forefront of Curriculum Reforms and Data Reforms. Quality Assurance Section coordinated the rationalization of programme portfolio to ensure the programmes on offer are accredited by CUE and other appropriate regulatory bodies, are market driven and focused on the Big Four Agenda.

On Data reforms, the thrust was on implementation of the Guidelines on Student Progression. The DVC led Student Data Management Champions and ICT focused on updating of the Student Management Information System (SMIS) in relation to student progression and in accordance with the Statutes and Guidelines. Other activities undertaken over this period are highlighted herein.



Prof. Julius Ogeng'o  
Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs

## UON HOLDS PRIZE GIVING DAY

The University of Nairobi held its Prize Giving Ceremony on Friday May 7, 2021 at the Taifa Hall in a ceremony that was also streamed virtually. The prizes largely donated by industry, registered trusts and individuals and are awarded to top academic student achievers every year. These occasions provide opportunities for top students in various categories to interact with Faculty, industry and other donors to celebrate their achievement.

University of Nairobi Prize Presentation Ceremony 2017/2018 2018/2019 Academic Years



*UON VC Prof. Stephen Kiama gives his remarks during the Prize presentation ceremony*

This year, with the support of 104 donors, the University awarded 448 alumni for outstanding performance in the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 Academic Years. The Ceremony was presided over by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Stephen Kiama who expressed joy and pride in the achievement of the students indicating that it was central to the University's academic mission. He further emphasized the Prize Presentation as signifying the University's commitment to the people reforms!"

The Deputy Vice chancellor, Academic Affairs Prof. Julius Ogeng'o emphasized on the importance of this event to the university, 'prize giving is consistent with the philosophy of UoN and our Reform Agenda 2020 in regard to people, in this case the students.'

In his acceptance speech, Kiunga Kumary, the best overall student in the University in the 2018/2019 academic year expressed his gratitude to the University, to the donors, to his parents and his mentors. He noted that, 'I must say the journey is tough and it continues to be. Remember nothing good comes easy, you must put in the time. From the early mornings to the late nights, pressure from deadlines, col-

UON HOLDS PRIZE GIVING DAY

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1971-2021 UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

# PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY

2017/2018 & 2018/2019 Academic Years

**THEME:**  
*Celebrating Academic Excellence*

**7 | 05 | 2021**

**Taifa Hall from 9.00 am**

[www.uonbi.ac.ke](http://www.uonbi.ac.ke)

liding with fellow students and lecturers, financial strains and the like; all these setbacks can make you easily disgruntled.

Kimeli Faith Jeruto (2017/2018) and Kumary Saitabau Kiunga (2018/2019) received a prize in the form of a gold medal as the best overall students in the University with the highest proficiency in both academic and extra-curricular activities from the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi Trustee Fund.



A section of the winners pose for a photo with the UONAA members.

## UON HOLDS ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

The University of Nairobi held its annual sports day for staff and students on 18th June, 2021 at the Main Campus sports ground. The occasion was officially flagged off by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Human Resource and Administration Prof. Enos Njeru. The annual event brought together participants drawn from all the six (6) Colleges of the University and the Central Departments.



*The DVC HRA Prof. Enos Njeru flagging off the sport Day at the UoN grounds, main campus.*



*UON Central Departments Tag of War Team in action during the UoN Sports Day*

**UNIVERSITY AMPLIFIES NEED FOR GUIDANCE IN CHOOSING CAREERS**

**T**he University of Nairobi The University of Nairobi in partnership with Tv47 hosted a virtual career fair on Friday, May 28, 2021. The Career Fair provided a platform for career guidance, mentorship and talent identification. The Office of Career Services at the University continues to play a critical role in giving guidance to students by organizing such events to provide information not only to University of Nairobi students but also students from other institutions of learning and the general public. The occasion brought together Career and Admission experts from the University of Nairobi, other institutions and Educational professionals. The Deputy Registrar Admissions emphasized the importance of guiding and mentoring young people especially in the present dynamic environment where young people face numerous challenges while choosing career paths.

Dr. Fred Otieno, a seasoned lecturer at the Department of Dental Sciences, University of Nairobi, encouraged students to converse with their parents and teachers in order to figure out their career prospects. He highlighted the present trends, the Blue Economy and Artificial Intelligence as new frontiers that students need to be advised on as a way of preparing them to take up careers in these areas.



Panelists during the Career Fair organized by UON & TV 47

## UON MANAGEMENT & STUDENT LEADERSHIP HOLD RETREAT

The University of Nairobi The University of Nairobi Management and UNSA leaders held a two day retreat in the coastal city of Mombasa on 21st and 22nd May, 2021. The University traditionally holds these events as a session to interact with the newly elected student leadership, discuss the expectations of students and management and develop a road map of continuous engagement on Academic and other student welfare matters. The retreat was a success and an opportunity for the Students to understand what is required of a University of Nairobi Student Leader. Capacity building by internal and external facilitators on carefully selected topics, student expectations and the role of the student leadership in sustaining the excellence of the University to centre stage.

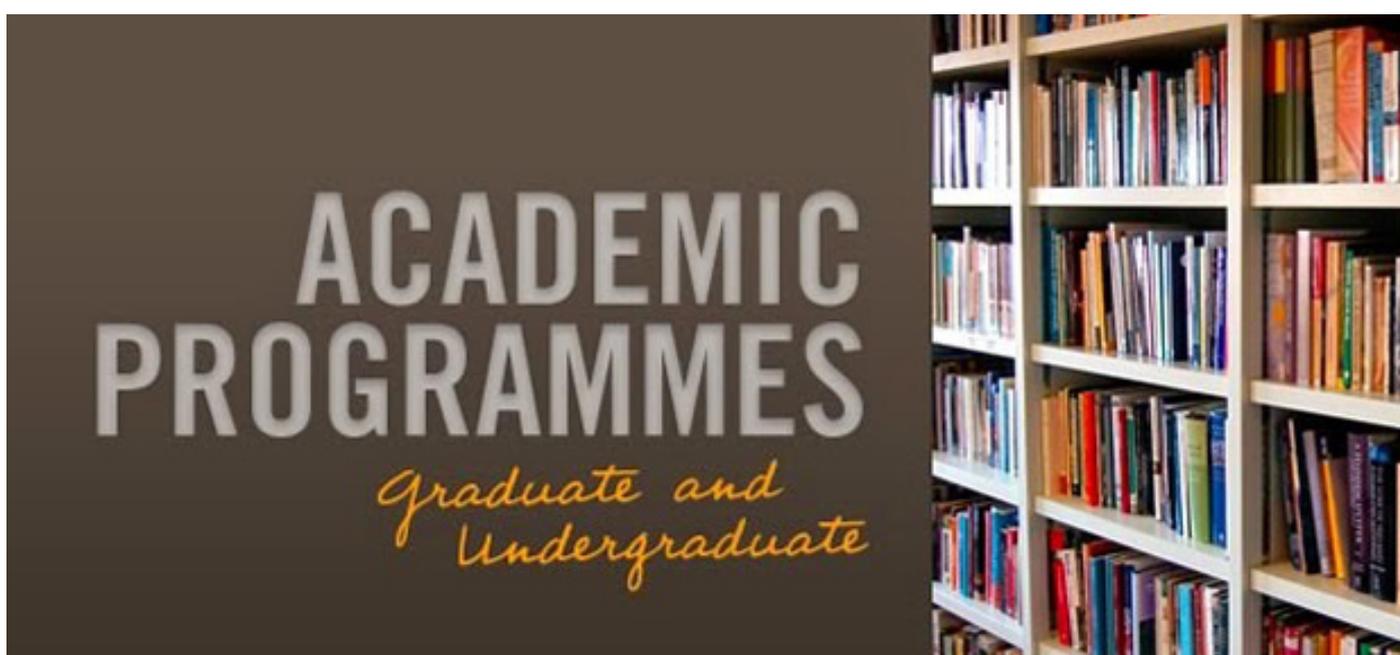
The DVC Academic Affairs Prof. Julius Ogeng'o in whose docket Student Affairs is housed called upon the students to understand their roles in enhancing the culture of excellence in the University. Other University managers also took the student leaders through important tenets needed to succeed as leaders in the University.



*Cross-section of UNSA Leaders during the UON Management & UNSA Leadership retreat INSET: The DVC AA giving his remarks during the retreat.*

## UON REVIEWS ITS PROGRAMMES PORTFOLIO

**C**urriculum reforms was among the pillars on the Vice Chancellors 5 point Reform Agenda and its implementation led by the Academic Affairs Division. The review of the University programmes portfolio was undertaken on this premise to create a lean, market driven, sustainable and anchored on the government's big four agenda. The process was collegial, entailing the DVC holding consultative meetings with College and Faculties/Schools Academic Boards; University Executive Board and several meetings of the University Senate. This ensured the programmes retained will address the present and future needs in various sectors. Programmes with low enrolment were merged, archived or discontinued and so the over 500 programmes were trimmed to 321 programmes.



*UoN trimmed its programme portfolio to 321 from nearly 600 programmes*

## UON STREAMLINES STUDENT PROGRESSION

**S**tudent progression is a fundamental aspect of academic process. The University of Nairobi developed frameworks to ensure regular transition between years with proper records system. For this reason the University Examination Student Progression section embarked on updating records through the reconciliation and collection of consolidated marksheets over the past 10 years (2020-2010). This exercise was aimed at ensuring regular progression with correct statistics documented. Regular meetings between the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs Prof. Julius Ogeng'o and the Faculty and Departmental Administrators ensured implementation of these guidelines with all Faculties but one ensuring 100 % compliance.



*Student Progression is a key aspect of Academic Progress*

## UNIVERSITY UPHOLDS STUDENT RECORDS & DATA MANAGEMENT: OVER 30,000 STUDENTS REGISTERED

The University of Nairobi embarked on Data reforms as a way of ensuring management decisions are data driven. The Academic Affairs Division by design lead the push to ensure Student Data is cleaned and accurate for informing management decisions. Upon the commissioning of the Student Data Management Champions in April, one of its significant output was to manage student records by ensuring compliance with the Statutes and Guidelines. To this end students who had overstayed, discontinued, expelled, absconded, transferred or withdrew were deregistered. Extension for those students who had requested were considered by Faculties and approved by Senate for a further two semesters. This collegial effort has realized more accurate data on students' records and will guide decision making in the University. These data will also ensure efficiency of processes related to academic functions and reporting to regulatory bodies.



University of Nairobi making Data Driven Management Decision



**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

### **OFFICE OF DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC AFFAIRS)**

Email: [dvca@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:dvca@uonbi.ac.ke)

P.O. Box: 30197, 00100 Nairobi 16th Floor UoN Towers University of Nairobi, Main Campus. Telephone

No: 020 – 4910000 (Pilot Line)

020 – 4913008 | 020 – 4913009 | 020 – 4913632

020 – 4913036 | 020 – 4918002 Administration & Information

020 – 4913617 Marketing

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