

Communication from Council

The Council of Stellenbosch University (SU) held the third of its four scheduled meetings for the year on Monday 26 September 2022. The meeting again took place in hybrid mode, with the majority of members participating in person.

As decided at the previous meeting, Council started its session by reflecting on the University's [restitution statement](#).

In light of the recent incidents of racism on campus, the Rector and Vice-Chancellor Prof Wim de Villiers updated members on the progress of the independent commission of inquiry led by Justice Sisi Khampepe. The commission is expected to complete and deliver their report with recommendations by the end of October. The outcomes of the report will determine further discussion and actions by Council.

The Rector also reported on developments and successes at the School for Data Science and Computational Thinking and the School for Climate Change over the past year.

Prof Hester Klopper, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC): Strategy, Corporate and Global Affairs, provided an overview of events in her responsibility centre over the past year and specifically highlighted the successes in the field of internationalisation.

Chief Operating Officer (COO) Prof Stan du Plessis, in turn, provided Council with an overview of activities in Operations and Finance. Council also reappointed him as COO for a second term.

In addition, we welcomed Prof Sibusiso Moyo, newly appointed DVC: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies, to her first Council meeting.

Finally, Council approved the five individuals who will be receiving honorary doctorates from SU at our graduation ceremonies in 2022/23. The recipients represent a diverse group with an international reach, but their roots in Africa.

Despite the challenges in the aftermath of the pandemic and recent incidents on campus, the reports by Profs De Villiers, Du Plessis and Klopper confirm that SU is indeed moving in the right direction.

We had vigorous yet respectful discussions, and members are eager to map out a path for SU to carry on thriving.

Please read on for further details.

Kind regards

Ainsley Moos
Chair: SU Council

Honorary doctorates

Council approved that five honorary doctorates be awarded during SU's 2022/23 graduation ceremonies. The names will be announced soon.

Strategy, Global and Corporate Affairs

Our DVC: Strategy, Global and Corporate Affairs, Prof Hester Klopper, used her annual reporting opportunity to brief Council on progress in her responsibility centre, with a particular focus on international affairs.

SU currently has partnerships with 320 universities and research institutes in 64 countries on all continents, and Prof Klopper's responsibility centre has played a pivotal role in providing support for SU's internationalisation strategy across the University.

To view her full report, [click here](#).

Operations and Finance

COO Prof Stan du Plessis also presented his annual report to Council and provided an update on the financial stability of the University. He noted with concern that dwindling state funding, especially in terms of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), posed a "real financial risk" to higher education institutions, but also assured Council of SU's financial health.

SU has made the single biggest investment in facilities of all South African universities, and our Environmental Sustainability Plan will have a far-reaching impact on our sustained success as an institution. Moreover, crime on our campuses has reduced over the past decade.

To view his full report, [click here](#).

Reappointment of COO

Prof Du Plessis was reappointed as our COO by an overwhelming majority. His second term starts on 1 January 2023 and will conclude on 31 December 2027.

Remuneration

After thorough discussion and consideration of the Rectorate's recommendations regarding remuneration adjustments for 2023, Council approved that base remuneration levels (BRLs) be capped at 6% growth and that the reward scheme for top performers be implemented in 2023. However, these recommendations are subject to Council's final approval of SU's 2023 budget at the end of 2022, as well as confirmation of our final government subsidy.

While staff have received higher-than-inflation adjustments over the past ten years, Council is also acutely aware of the impact of the flat economy on employees' pockets in the past 12 months.

Name changes in Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

The Department of Sport Science will be renamed the Department of Exercise, Sport and Lifestyle Medicine, while the Division of Biokinetics and Kinderkinetics will now be known as the Division of Movement Science and Exercise Therapy.

Personalia

First meeting

Senate elected Prof Lesley le Grange as new Council member for the term 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024.

The Western Cape premier appointed Mr Danie Rossouw as new Council member for the term 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2026.

The Students' Representative Council (SRC) appointed Ms Masilo Silokazi and Ms Phiwokhule Qabaka as new Council members from the SRC's own ranks, to serve from 21 September 2022 to 20 September 2023.

Committees

Ms Masilo Silokazi was also appointed as the student representative on Council's Language Committee.

Next meeting

Council's last meeting for 2022 is scheduled for **28 November**.