

Vice Chancellor's Report 2017/18

Chancellor,
Members of Council
ICGC Presbytery
Pro VC,
Registrar,
Deans & Directors,
Heads of sister Institutions and Regulatory Agencies
Heads of Department & Units,
Members of Convocation,
Staff
Neneme Naaname
President of the Alumni Association and Alum here present
SRC & Students,
Graduating Class 2018,
Parents & Guardians,
Distinguished Invited guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today we take stock of 2017/18 academic year. We cannot but be thankful for an extraordinary year of major change and challenge and for the gracious care of God that has resulted in **1598 graduands** presented today for their various awards and degrees. Technically a **graduand is someone who having fulfilled certain requirements, is eligible to graduate, but has as yet not had the certification conferred on him or her.** So today's ceremony completes the process and our expectant past students will after your pronouncements Mr. Chancellor, become true graduates.

Academic Management

Central University continues to lead the way in private Higher Education in Ghana as the largest private University. Within the period, our student numbers stabilised at 7,072. We enrolled 1,461 new students across all our programmes. Our student population now has approximately 46% science enrolment with the rest taken up by Business, Law and Social Sciences. Our gender ratio is 49% female and 51% male. 7% of our students are foreign students mainly from the West African area. We have 5% graduate enrolment.

Our School of Pharmacy in the period had its last intake to the BPharm programme. From the 2018/19 session, the School has rolled out the PharmD programme which is a terminal practitioner degree. It has student numbers of approximately 900 with 22 faculty members and state-of-the-art labs. The School is led by Professor Kwasi Ohemeng a noted pharmacist and international pharmaceutical scientist whose breakthrough research has led to the discovery and commercialization of a new antibiotic.

The Faculty of Law, led by Rev. Prof. E. H. Ofori-Amankwah is one of the largest in the country with over 600 students. Council approved the creation of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences. This School has the flagship Physician

Assistant Studies programme which is regularly over-subscribed. The School is led by Prof. Richard Apatu a recognised clinician and academic.

Council also approved the creation of the **School of Architecture and Design**. This is in our bid to consolidate our leadership as the only private University in Ghana offering programmes in the areas of the Architecture, the built environment and related studies. The School is led by Mr. K. Abankwa, a respected architect in the design of health facilities.

Our **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences under the leadership of Professor Clara Fayorsey**, continues to grow and rolled out three new programmes: BSc Psychology, BA Sociology and BA Social Work.

The **Central Business School** under the leadership of Dr. Adelaide Kastner remains the single largest School in the University with a little over 2100 students across all its programmes.

Council approved the creation of the **School of Engineering and Technology**. This School is led by Dr. M. Abbeney-Mickson an Agricultural Engineer. The School of Graduate Studies has approximately 300 students across programmes in Business, Theology and Social Sciences.

The University during the period under review operated from three campuses: Miotso (main campus); Mataheko (in-city campus) and Kumasi.

We are embarking on a wide ranging review of all our programme offerings. Our intention is to remain relevant, offer applicable and quality training to our students while matching our resources to our services provision. To this end, we will be phasing out a number of programmes from our School of Theology and Missions and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

I announce that effective February 2019, we roll out our weekend/Saturday only MBA programme here at the Miotso Campus to serve the Tema-Akosombo-Ada triangle. We will roll out a series of Diploma programmes targeting technical manpower development.

Development Projects

The University approved concept drawings for two major projects: the Central University Hospital and the Accra City Campus. Both projects are strategically important for our growth and on completion should see CU roll out niche programmes in the City as well as the medical programme at Miotso.

Our people

In the period under review, a number of faculty completed their PhD studies including:

- Dr. Gloria Dzeha
- Rev. Dr. Moses Asamoah

- Dr. Ben Amoah

At the present time we are at approximately 30% faculty with terminal degrees. The University has invested over USD500,000 in the research support and doctoral training of faculty. A fully paid for health screening exercise was organised for all employees of Central University.

Student Life

CU Students have a number of exciting prospects on campus. Many participate in the Chapel services each week. There are poetry, drama, jazz, debating and dance groups and classes. On-campus accommodation in three different hostes/halls of residence operated by the International Central Gospel Church; the University and Pronto Company Ltd. In the period under review, CU students participated in a trip to Sweden to understudy some radio stations in that country. Communications students also visited the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa. Others participated in the Dutch Business Challenge, which CU students have dominated for 3yrs running. There have been vibrant sports activities on the campus.

Spiritual Formation

Our Chapel service registers some 500+ on Wednesdays and 1000+ on Sundays. Discipleship training; prayer chain that took in VVU, UPSA, WIUC, Pentecost UC and DataLink. Choral Fest, Drama nights etc; Mission to Bogosu and Bawdie which involved 80 students and 300 lives won to the Lord. I announce we shall work with the student body through the Chaplaincy to start **Bible Study Clubs** in Senior High Schools in our catchment area.

Research, Advocacy and Library Services

During the period under review, various colloquia were held with themes such as:

- Mental Health, does the church care?
- Ghana @60: rethinking the national agenda for development
- Health Innovation and Technology for developing the nation
- Emergence of crypto currency.

Faculty attended international conferences in various parts of Africa, the USA and Europe.

In April 2018, Central University hosted the **International Research Team led by Professor Stella Nkomo** which is studying the Organisational and Research Culture of African Universities (ORCA). In August, we hosted the second phase of the National Multiplication Programme training in Higher Education Management sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Programme. This was a collaborative exercise between the University of Ghana, Central University, Catholic University College, University of Energy and Natural Resources and Addis Ababa University.

To promote our research and advocacy footprint, Council has approved the creation of **our Institute for Policy & Biographical Studies**. We have appointed

Professor Adusei Jumah a noted Economist as the Head and Mr. Ivor Agyeman Duah a noted Biographer and Development Policy Specialist as the Associate Head.

Library services

The University added 188 books to its collection, bringing the total book stock to over 55,000. The Library now boasts of 488 electronic books covering all subjects offered at CU. By membership of the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Ghana (CARLIGH), CU has access to over Ten Thousand (10,000) electronic journals on all programme offerings.

Challenges facing CU and other Private Universities

The challenges facing our University and sister private Universities are numerous.

1. Perhaps the most significant is the matter of **student fees**. Mr. Chancellor we struggle with students some of who often pay their fees only under duress of pending examinations. We struggle with the disreputable misrepresentations of faceless detractors who during the time running up to admission times regularly issue false statements about the fee levels of private universities. We struggle with the difficulty of not being able to apply true full cost fees to the business of HE service provision.

The University has routinely subsidised the cost of student rotations which are key parts of some programmes to the tune of 65%. These difficulties place a severe burden on private Universities and it is time for us in Ghana and other parts of Africa to realise that education is a costly exercise. When well done, however, its benefits far outstrip the initial investment.

2. Closely related to the matter of fees is the difficulties we have with **accessing finance for infrastructure development**. Commercial facilities have been expensive. This campus was developed with such facilities and began to be used in the 2006/07. We are still paying residual amounts to date.
3. A third problem which is a consequence of the first two, is the challenges associated with **high cost of utilities and difficulty with offering our students even better student life facilities**.
4. A fourth problem is the matter of the unbridled growth in the number of operators in HE in Ghana. We have over 70 known private universities; 8 or more newly created Technical Universities; new public universities planned and out-doored...all for a nation of 27m.
5. Fifth, we have a constant war of discredit being meted out at private universities. It seems on occasion that some want to tarnish away the important role played by private Universities.

Much like private sector participation in any sector of our socio-economic national life, private universities must be supported, protected and encouraged. It is unfortunate that we open our doors to foreign players who do not necessarily bring in new value to the sector. We welcome external players, but we believe they should come in with new faculty, new programmes, new research foci and new agendas to support our human capital development.

Policy Concerns

We believe there are a number of policy matters that are of importance and we wish to iterate these.

1. Ghana needs to create a **Human Capital Development Policy** position for itself. What skills are needed in 20-30yrs? What capabilities do we need to nurture? We have a rather low legal density north of the middle belt of the country. We have few anaesthetists, not enough nephrologists, pulmonologists and cardiologists. We commend the government on the free SHS, but ask that curricula content should be looked at. We believe the transition to Technical Universities must come with a legal restriction on such universities to prevent them from becoming humanities institutions. Commercialization has so blurred the distinctions on the HE landscape that we risk educating for its sake.
2. We request a streamlining of modalities to **enable private universities to access the GET Fund for infrastructure development** at reduced rates of interest. For as citizens, our taxes and levies go into the fund.
3. We call on the **State to institute mechanisms for open calls for relevant research, training, partnering and policy formulation dialogue initiatives** as competitive exercises that all Universities should bid for. This would strengthen the policy-academe relationship and promote stronger niche Universities because we all develop to find and specialise in those areas where we have strengths. System of Universities bidding for various government led initiatives
 - Research into 1D1F
 - Training of government workers
 - Consulting for major financial or infrastructure projects
 - Partnerships for the development of new innovative and socio-economic led programmes
4. In recent times, Ghana has experienced some unrest on University campuses. **I urge the Government to work with University authorities and avoid a situation where unfortunate noises would be made suggesting that under this government inappropriate attacks are being launched at University systems.** I know that is not the case, so I am concerned about that impression.

5. I wish to mention that we are onside with the reforms that government through Hon. Professor Yankah is bringing to the regulatory space with the prospect of the Ghana Tertiary Education Authority/Commission. We believe it is in the right direction. As these changes take place we call for a critical review of the Access regimes for entering Universities and other Tertiary institutions. The grade D7 is not a fail. It should therefore not be the barrier that it now is.
6. We recommend the set-up of **entrepreneurial funds and incubation centres dedicated solely to graduate-led start-ups** by new graduates and student led innovations and incubation support. Ghana beyond aid will be a reality if our young people have needed support to create many new SMEs which deploy their talents and create employment. For us at CU, our office of Internships and Exchange Programmes will be tasked to work with Deans to identify promising L400 students who could be put on our own mentoring-incubation programme.
7. While we agree that the PhD should continue be a key requisite for teaching in universities, we believe the policy should differentiate along the lines of types of Universities and their focal intents.

Notable Events, Partnerships

In February 2018, the International Central Gospel Church unveiled the largest bronze Eagle sculpture in Ghana at the Miotso campus. It was sponsored by the Chancellor Rev. Dr. Mensa Otabil. The Office of the Chancellor also revived the University Development Fund with the express intent to raise monies for all CU's Development Projects. In March, we honoured the immediate past Vice Chancellor Professor Kwesi Yankah who left us to take up the post of Minister for Tertiary Education. May 2018, the Vice Chancellor accompanied the Chancellor on a visit to China where they visited Tsinghua University, Xiamen University and SANY Polytechnic College. CU was visited by delegations from Campbell Law School in the USA, Indiana University, SVK of Sweden and University of Alabama. We have ongoing partnerships with Florida Agricultural Mechanical University and the National Electronic Media Institute of SA; the School of Architecture is in partnership with the Ningo Prampram District Assembly in respect of the Accra expansion project. CU has offered an office on the Miotso campus to the project. In the last year Barclays Bank has offered 10 students various scholarships and supports. We will be reaching out to other major and not so major corporates inviting them to extend a hand to some of our students who do need various types of help at various points in their 4yr journey on campus.

Why CU

Sitting on some 248 acres of land in the Dangme East area of Ghana, Central University has a main campus which is serene and beautiful but far from complete. With the iconic Eagle Sculpture, large Trinity Hall, ample large

lecture halls and a growing bouquet of programmes, CU offers prospective students an environment where the whole-man is nurtured: body, soul and spirit.

Our Christian heritage reposes on us a duty of care to ensure that our students are safe, are developed to understand the impact of ethical decisions on government and industry; and are aware that belief in God and the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ demands operationalization in the world of work, community and social change.

We have so far graduated over 15,000 students in our 20yr history and have alum in all recognizable fields of endeavour from government to media and entertainment. The following alum have spoken at various graduation ceremonies: Mr. Lawrence Adjei, Ambassador Sam Yalley, Mrs. Dede Odamttan, Mrs. Phyllis Kuenyehia and Mrs. Akua Owusu-Nartey, CEO, Ogilvy & Mather Ghana/West Africa.

On December 5, we were treated to a fantastic Christmas Service at which Mr. Ebo Whyte shared his testimony and the Accra Symphony Orchestra and Lumina, the resident orchestral music and classical voice arm of Christ Temple performed. In the spirit of soul inspiring music, I am happy to celebrate our Music Director, Mr. James Varrick Armaah, who is the resident Music Director at CU and also the Music Director of the Harmonious Chorale of Rev. Joyce Aryee's Salt and Light Ministries. Mr. Armaah is the composer of the song Oye, which His Excellency the President loves so much.

A word to the Graduating Class

You came, you saw, you studied and you have conquered. Henceforth is laid up for you many territories to annex, many souls to bring to the kingdom, many changes to effect in Ghana and beyond, many lives to touch and torch for God, many errant systems to put right. Your education is purposed so that you would become transformational hereafter. We want some of you to enter the security services, we want some of you to enter legitimate and clean politics, we want some of you to become ministers of the gospel. We want to see business owners and solution driven entrepreneurs. We want many of you to be professional, honest and able civil servants, doctors, nurses, lawyers and workers who know their God. We want some of you to return as faculty and administrators here at CU. The road before you will not be easy. But you have been equipped. Be the change we need. Be the catalyst.

Remember also that we live in a society where boldness, tough decisions and a dedication to the collective institutional good is often ridiculed and will earn you names and the anger of certain people. When that happens, remember that nearly each and every achiever in the Bible encountered pain, derision, gossip, plots and worse. But through it all God watched over them to perfect the mandate He commissioned them to attain. I pronounce you into God's best for you and as you leave this room today, speak words of what you want

to be in 10, 20, 30yrs and mark it in your spirit. You will return and so testify. **May the Lord smile in your direction.**

In conclusion

This is our 20th year. We have reason to be grateful. We have graduated many in our 20yrs. We have led the way in Science education in the private Higher Education space. We have the largest number of faculty in any private University. Our vision is to become the preferred University in the private sector; offer our students a menu of programme choices that prepare them for productive life; embed ethicality in our students and increase our research and advocacy footprint. We believe that our prospects for sustained and controlled growth are bright. We are grateful for God's gracious care and look to deploy our capabilities and resources to fulfil our sacred duty of shaping young minds into a God ordained and potentialized future. On behalf of the University I wish us all a joyous Christmas and may God enrich our 2019 experience.

Thank you.

Bill Buenar Puplampu, FGA
Vice Chancellor