

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS
JULY 19, 2019, CONGREGATION CEREMONY
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES**

Chairman and Members of Council,
Pro-Vice Chancellors,
Registrar,
Provosts and Deans,
Guest Speaker,
Chairman and Members of Advisory Board of the College of Humanities,
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Graduands,
Invited Guests,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the second session of the July Congregation Ceremonies for the 2018/2019 cohort. Congregation ceremonies will be held in November this year for another batch of the 2018/2019 cohort of students.

The State of the University

Academic Affairs of the University

Admissions

The University of Ghana registered a total of 11,216 (Eleven Thousand, Two Hundred and Sixteen) students into various programmes mounted at its campuses in the 2018/2019 academic year. This number consisted of 5,828 (Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-eight) male students and 5,388 (Five Thousand Three Hundred and Eighty-eight) female students, including 306 (Three Hundred and six) International/Visiting Students.

The total number reflects an overall admission ratio of 51:49 for males and females, implying that the University is steadily attaining its strategic objective of a 50:50 ratio for male and female student enrolment.

Affiliation of Six Colleges of Education to University of Ghana

As you may be aware, the Government of Ghana has initiated policy reforms in teacher education to improve the quality of teaching and learning at basic schools. As part of the reform, all 46 public Colleges of Education are being converted into University Colleges of Education of public Universities that train teachers through a special affiliation agreement for a transitional period of four years to deliver the new four-year B.Ed. curriculum. This agreement is expected to guarantee the institutional integration of Colleges into their affiliated Universities.

In consonance with the above, six Public Colleges of Education have been assigned to the University of Ghana with effect from October 2019. The Colleges are Accra College of Education, Enchi College of Education, Evangelical Presbyterian College of Education at Amedzofe, Peki College of Education, Gbewaa College of Education at Pusiga and Mount Mary College of Education at Somanya.

Strategic Teams

Chairman of Council, Ladies and Gentlemen, strategic teams were set up in November 2016 to drive the transformational agenda of the University of Ghana.

The Independent Power Supply Team is spearheading the effort to re-condition the biogas plant at Hilla Limann Hall to generate gas for the four new Halls.

Through the instrumentality of the team, the Ministry of Energy recently donated electrical items to the University of Ghana. The items received include 1,000 Pieces of Watts LED Street Lights, among others. The University has started utilizing some of the donations towards the management of the demand-side

programme of power consumption and illuminate critical areas of the University campus. We are grateful to the Minister of Energy and his team for this strategic support.

As part of the efforts of the team, the University recently gave approval for Bui Power Project to undertake geological and geotechnical surveys, and transmission right of way, needed to conclude the feasibility studies for a proposed 2.5 Mw solar project.

The Green Team Project is also advancing on its mandate of increasing tree density, ensuring green coverage of campus grounds, developing paved walkways and improving waste management. The Team has also earmarked a number of activities on the main campus this year. The University of Ghana Plastic Recycling Project's (UGPRP) effort at institutionalising source segregation of waste in the university community is progressing steadily. So far, it is estimated that about 23 metric tons of plastic waste has been collected and transferred for recycling. The recycling project is spearheaded by students.

The Institutional Advancement Team facilitated an official media launch of the UG @ 70 Alumni Homecoming Weekend on Wednesday, 10th July, 2019. The Alumni Homecoming, slated for Friday, 9th to Sunday, 11th August 2019 is a thanksgiving event to climax the activities of the Platinum Anniversary of UG, and is aimed at attracting the University's distinguished alumni to the main campus. Proceeds from the event are expected to augment the UG @ 70 Endowment Fund.

Meanwhile, the UG@70 Endowment Fund continues to receive donations from individuals and groups. I am happy to report that the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has redeemed his pledge of GH¢5 million (Five Million Ghana Cedis) that he made during the launch of the endowment in May 7, 2018. I take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to His Excellency the President for this noble gesture, and

encourage our guests and members of the graduating class to also commit to support the University in this direction. I will also like to encourage members of the graduating class and alumni present to participate in the Homecoming event.

Fundraising Strategy to Modernize Laboratories and Research Facilities at the University of Ghana

Chairman of Council, Ladies and Gentlemen, a fundraising strategy to modernize laboratories and research facilities at University of Ghana has been developed by the Laboratory Modernization Implementation Committee as part of the Strategic Initiatives. Establishing state-of-the-art laboratories and developing world class facilities at UG will help bridge and better link theory and practice. A well-resourced University with modern facilities for research can help deliver and advance Ghana's national agenda of self-sustaining development, as well as meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063. It is expected that all stakeholders will join our four-year fund-raising campaign to mobilize the target of US\$ 500 million needed to modernize our laboratories when the initiative is rolled out later this year.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the chairpersons and members of the nine strategic teams for the good work done so far to move the University of Ghana towards becoming a "Go to University".

Research Grants

Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, the University of Ghana remains committed to its vision of becoming a world class research-intensive institution. It is heart-warming to note that landmark research grants have already been won, and these have helped to improve the University's research profile.

The Office of Research, Innovation and Development (ORID) has processed 81 research grant agreements from the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year to date with a total grant value of approximately US\$ 35.8 m (Thirty-five Million

and Eight Hundred Thousand United States Dollars). This represents over 1,000% (one thousand percent) increase in grant revenue over the last three academic years.

University Finances

Fiscal Discipline and Financial Reforms

Ladies and Gentlemen, management of the University, with the support of the University Council, has resolved to build institutional systems and structures which will stand the test of time and usher the University into a prosperous future.

University Management and Council have therefore rolled out an initiative to ensure fiscal discipline and prudent financial management. This initiative seeks to free fiscal space and make funds available to undertake critical developmental projects, in line with Strategic Objective Six of the University's Strategic Plan, which seeks to enhance the mobilization and management of resources in the University.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am glad to report that since the introduction of these reforms, the University has made a lot of savings. The statement of financial performance of the University for 2018-2019 academic year shows that out of a budgeted expenditure for Other Operating Expenses in the sum of approximately GH¢213 million (Two Hundred and Thirteen Million), the actual expenditure was approximately GH¢131 million (One Hundred and Thirty-one Million) indicating a saving of about 38%.

In a related development, Management has set up an operational committee called ***Internal Revenue Committee*** to help maximize the generation of internally generated funds, thereby reducing the risk associated with rent receivables.

I wish to appeal to all staff, students and stakeholders of the University to embrace and support the implementation of these reforms to ensure that, together, we make judicious use of our financial and other resources to promote efficiency.

University of Ghana Heritage Museum

As part of efforts to preserve the legacy and heritage of the University of Ghana, Management has set up a University of Ghana Museum Fund-Raising Committee to raise funds to establish a state-of-the-art University of Ghana Museum (UG Museum). The UG Museum is expected to store, conserve and exhibit objects of historical, scientific, artistic or cultural interest and significance, as well as collections of high-profile personalities of the University.

Financial Aid to Students

Ladies and Gentlemen, the students Financial Aid Office has made it possible for less endowed but brilliant students to have equal access to quality education at the University of Ghana. I am glad to note that there has been an increase in donations from approximately GH¢1,000,000.00 (One Million Ghana Cedis) in the 2016-2017 academic year to approximately GH¢3,000,000.00 (Three Million Ghana Cedis) in 2017/18 academic year. This represents a 155% increase over the previous year.

During the period under review, a total of Six Hundred and Fourteen Students (614) out of Nine Hundred and Twenty (920) applicants were awarded Scholarships. This represents 66.7% of all Scholarship applicants.

Well wishes to Graduands

To you, ladies and gentlemen of the graduating class, as we celebrate this milestone with you, I would like to conclude with the words of Winston Churchill: ***Success is walking from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.***

I therefore pray that your commitment to obtaining knowledge does not end with your graduation but that you will continue to seek knowledge to enable you to make significant changes in your lives and in society as a whole.

As you move on to the next stage of your lives, remember to uphold the values of the University – Respect, Commitment, Integrity and Loyalty.

I wish you all the best in your individual endeavours. Once again, congratulations.

Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu
July 19, 2019