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# UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEMORANDUM PREPARED BY THE  
PRINCIPAL, PROFESSOR S. PAUW,  
FOR THE INFORMATION OF  
FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

## THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

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One of the most significant undertakings in the field of education and good human relations in this country is the University of South Africa.

Its important and pioneering role in the development of the potential of South Africa's peoples is dawning upon public bodies, industries and individuals. The result is phenomenal growth.

The time has come for the University to make itself better known and to give the public the opportunity to participate in its rewarding task.

Leaders in different fields owe it to themselves and their followers to gain some knowledge of the University.

### History

The University is at once the oldest and the youngest of South Africa's universities. Patterned on the University of London, it was founded as the University of the Cape of Good Hope in 1873. For more than forty years it was the only university in South Africa authorized to grant degrees or to conduct examinations for university entrance. It was a central examining body responsible also for several other examinations. To this day it administers the examinations and exemptions of the Joint Matriculation Board and apart from its university work also conducts music examinations for 15,000 candidates every year.

It was the academic guardian which guaranteed the standards of all the other university institutions until they became autonomous universities.

In 1916 when Stellenbosch and Cape Town became autonomous universities this University was reconstituted as the University of South Africa with the then remaining colleges as its constituent colleges. In its new form and under its new name it will therefore be celebrating its jubilee in 1966.

The University of the Witwatersrand became independent in 1922,

Pretoria in 1930, and the others in the four years from 1948 to 1951.

As a teaching university the University is the youngest in the country. In 1946 it was made responsible for the training of external students through the written word. It is unique in the world as the only recognized university devoted mainly to the training of external students. In the United States there are 57 universities which also undertake education through the written word. Their efforts are however insignificant compared with the work of the University of South Africa.

In the past 17 years the University has followed a vigorous policy aimed at the intellectual development of people. Its main asset has been a determination to maintain high university standards and to meet the challenge to prove that the written word could be a worthy medium of university education. The written word is after all the pre-eminent medium for academic and scientific communication on a high level.

The University is deeply grateful for the assistance received from the other universities. Their principals are members of, or are represented on the Council; each other university is represented by at least two professors on the Senate and many professors of other universities act as examiners for the University of South Africa. Thus Professor I.D. MacCrone was for many years a representative of the Witwatersrand University on the Senate and an examiner of UNISA. Now, as Principal of his University, he is a member of the Council of this University.

In this way the University remains a central university body on which the nine universities co-operate in the interest of the external student. It is a university for external students and does not aspire to become a residential university or to register students who can attend at a residential university. In his application for registration each student must give a clear and acceptable reason for not studying at a residential university.



### A University for Seniors

The students of the University are self-reliant, responsible adults of an average age of over 27 years - seven years older than the students of other universities. Only 7.5 per cent of the students are under twenty years of age, compared with 12.4 per cent who are over forty.

The University sees its main challenge in the vast undeveloped potential of adults. Not only the minds of young people, but also those of adults must be improved. Not only the unqualified but also those who are qualified need further knowledge.

The seniority and maturity of the students of the University apply not only to age, but also to their academic advancement. This year no fewer than 2,853 of the students already held degrees, and 4,829 were qualified for some profession. The latter figure includes 3,698 teachers, 224 engineers, 240 qualified accountants, 134 research scientists, 237 ministers of religion and 54 doctors and dentists.

The students in the higher age groups are increasing more rapidly than the younger ones and those already qualified more rapidly than the unqualified.

About half the students with degrees are following advanced courses whereas the other half are supplementing their qualifications by study in new fields. Thus many engineers are taking the B.Com. degree, and scientists are improving their knowledge of foreign languages, statistics or mathematics.

The University is not only a university for those who have never had the opportunity of attending university classes, but also for qualified persons who wish to improve their qualifications. Approximately 50 per cent of the students were previously registered at other universities, and 75 per cent of the graduates hold degrees of other universities. All South African and many overseas universities have alumni in the University of South Africa.

### Beyond the Borders

The activities of the University extend beyond the borders of the Republic: 56 per cent of the students live in the Transvaal, 19 per cent in the Cape Province, 10.4 per cent in Natal and 5.9 per cent in the Orange Free State and no fewer than 1,136 of this year's students live outside the Republic. This includes 456 in Southern Rhodesia, 225 in South West Africa, 191 in the Protectorates, 132 in Northern Rhodesia, 35 in East Africa, 13 in Mozambique, and 8 in the rest of Africa. Indeed, there are 76 students outside Africa, including 31 in the British Isles, 21 in Europe, 19 in North America, 3 in Australia, one in Israel, and one in Santiago, Chile. Most of the students outside Africa are South Africans.

Students in other countries normally do their examinations at South African embassies or consulates, or at local universities. The University has over 600 examination centres. In the Republic other institutions and leading citizens act on behalf of the University in the supervision of examinations. Thus the University is brought to the student. It is conducting a bold experiment in conquering geographic and social distance. It is a real universitas.

### Good Relations

The University is privileged to be the University of South Africa in the best and widest sense of the term. It is neither local nor sectional. It serves all sections of the people and is one of the most vigorous focal points of good relations in South Africa. In spite of its multi-racial character it succeeds in making provision for all students without giving offence to anyone. At the same time it accepts the laws and customs of the country as the framework within which it must fulfil its academic function. Because it moves on a high intellectual level, differences of race are minimized. Because the University treats its students on a basis of goodwill and common decency, not a single unpleasant incident on racial or political grounds has been reported to

me since I became Principal more than seven years ago.

The University of South Africa is the only bilingual university in the Republic. Of the students 49.1 per cent use Afrikaans and 50.9 per cent English as their medium of instruction. The University has courses in the seven Bantu languages and a large number of other languages including Russian and Arabic. It is considering the institution of courses in Portuguese and Hindi.

While 82.4 per cent of its external students are White, there are 2,320 non-White students, not counting the 1,397 at the five university colleges for non-Whites who are also registered students of the University.

Although the University has in recent years developed mainly as a teaching university for external students, it is now reliving part of its history in that it has become the examining university for the five university colleges for non-White students.

### Seven Faculties

The University has seven faculties: Arts, Science, Commerce and Administration, Law, Education, Social Science and Divinity.

It teaches 268 courses and continual requests are being received from responsible bodies for the introduction of new courses. The University is however very careful not to increase the number of courses too rapidly.

Nevertheless, after careful investigation it does undertake important new developments.

Two cases in point are the institution of training in Chemistry and in Management.

In 1961 the Department of Chemistry was established. Only students who have adequate laboratories at their disposal and who do their prescribed practical work under the supervision of an approved senior chemist are accepted. In practice this means that Chemistry students are workers in the chemical in-



dustry. This year there were 111 students in the first, 33 in the second and 8 in the third year. In addition 27 were registered for B.Sc.(Hons.), 4 for M.Sc, and 5 for Ph.D. in Chemistry.

The institution of a post-graduate Diploma in Management has recently been approved in principle. The University is sending Professor G. Marais of the Department of Business Economics to Europe, Britain and America to investigate the latest developments in the methods of training in this field.

#### Not the easy way

The University does not believe in the easy way in education. Not only are the standards high but the method is also an arduous one. Much independent thought and work are expected of the student. The student's circumstances often place further difficulties in the way. There certainly is a need for the University's motto Spes in Arduis. Hoop langs die steiltes.

Although many students do not succeed, those who do have proved not only their intellectual ability but also their strength of character, industry and perseverance. The number receiving degrees and diplomas will soon exceed one thousand per year.

#### Priority number one

Priority number one in the policy of the University is the recruitment of staff of high quality. It has succeeded remarkably well in this aim. Several professors of other universities, including two deans, have accepted appointments at the University. Opportunities for research and publication are important attractions. Staff shortages are no serious problem. The staff are happy in the knowledge that the work they do is important. Their loyalty, zeal and unity of purpose are unmatched and are proving an inspiration to the students who, in spite of geographical distance, are developing a corporate spirit and pride in their Alma Mater. Like the students the staff are also



drawn from all South African and a number of overseas universities.

### Phenomenal Growth

The growth of the University is extremely rapid. The number of students has increased as follows:

1955 :	5,586
1956 :	6,342
1957 :	7,397
1958 :	8,128
1959 :	9,171
1960 :	10,456
1961 :	11,354
1962 :	13,158
1963 :	14,608

The students of the University colleges for non-Whites are included in the totals from 1960 onwards. In 1963 they numbered 1,397.

The enrolment of the other universities in 1962 was:

Pretoria	8,124
Witwatersrand	5,884
Cape Town	5,485
Stellenbosch	4,818
Natal	3,914
Orange Free State	2,125
Potchefstroom	1,901
Rhodes	1,606

The phenomenal growth of the University is likely to continue. In the past its activities were not vigorously publicised. Now however the University is being given publicity by students and an increasing number of influential friends.

The growth in the facilities of the University is even more rapid than the growth in the number of students. The ratio of staff to students is increasing, the library is growing rapidly and the emphasis on research and publication is beginning to show results.

### Research and Publication

An increasing number of teachers and students are actively engaged on research. The University expects its teachers to do research and to publish the results. Thus far two research bodies are being accommodated at the University.

The first is the Africa Institute which collects and disseminates information about Africa, publishes a local and an international bulletin and is engaged upon the preparation and publication of maps and statistics on Africa. Four issues of the Institute's Maps and Statistics have appeared. When the whole series of twelve has been completed, it will be compiled into a valuable political, economic and social atlas of Africa.

The Bureau for Market Research established by the University's Department of Business Economics under the Directorship of Professor Rädcl is doing fundamental research in various problems of marketing. Several reports have been published, inter alia on the income and expenditure patterns of Bantu households in Pretoria, Benoni and Johannesburg. A survey among the Coloured and Bantu populations in Cape Town is in progress.

Action initiated by the University of South Africa has led to the establishment of an Institute for Public Administration which may also in future be accommodated at the University.

The establishment of an Institute for Advanced Mathematics is being planned. The Department of Mathematics is particularly suited to undertake this and already has 13 M.Sc. and 14 Ph.D. students. One of the latter has come specially from Canada to study under the professor of his choice. The abovementioned numbers greatly exceed those of any other mathematics department in South Africa. Senior students in the Department include scientists employed by the C.S.I.R., the Atomic Energy Board and other universities.

The growth of post-graduate work at the University is one of its main features. The number of students registered for advanced degrees is increasing more than twice as rapidly as the number of undergraduates.

The publications of staff members appear in several series of publications sponsored by the University.

### Breaking down Academic Isolation

The University plans to play an important role in breaking down South Africa's academic isolation. An increasing number of its teachers, eight in 1963, are spending their leave at overseas institutions. Its main contribution in this direction will however be its plans for bringing world figures in different disciplines to conduct short courses and seminars here during the overseas summer vacation. These persons will also be made available for lectures at other universities.

Thus during 1962 Professor H. G. Wales of the University of Illinois paid a three months' visit to the University and had an important stimulating effect on the practice of market research at this University and by other bodies operating in this field.

This year Professor Max Kaser of the University of Hamburg, a world figure in the field of Roman Law, was visiting the University.

Professor E. Sperner, a world figure in Mathematics, also of the University of Hamburg, has been invited for 1964. Professor Sperner has recently been elected Rector of his University.

The intention is to increase the number of visits by experts from overseas and it is hoped that some of the students of these world figures will be attracted to accept permanent posts at South African universities.

### A new campus

The main problem arising from the University's rapid growth is



that of suitable accommodation. At present it occupies buildings in four blocks in the central city area in Pretoria.

Properties bought with a view to expansion have been claimed by the City Council for a new freeway.

The University has now realized that it should withdraw from the central area of the city, and the City Council has generously donated a beautiful building site on Muckleneuk Hill overlooking the city to the north and Fountains Valley to the south. An architect has been appointed, and plans are being drawn up for a complex of buildings which will be a credit to Pretoria and the Republic. These new developments will involve the University in considerable capital expenditure. The new buildings are expected to cost R2,500,000. The expansion of the library stocks to 500,000 volumes will require a further R500,000. As soon as the plans are finalised a fundraising campaign will be launched. The preliminary target for the campaign is R2,000,000. It is hoped that the new buildings will be ready in 1966 for the occasion of the Jubilee Festival and that the preliminary target will have been reached by that time.

A special feature of the new campus will be a conference centre for meetings of scientific, cultural and professional bodies. Seminars on a high level will be held there. This centre will consist of an auditorium and several smaller halls and committee rooms. The University's cafeteria will form part of the building.

#### University Finance

Current expenditure is covered almost entirely by students' fees and government subsidy. The government subsidy amounts to about fifty per cent of current expenditure. An application has been made for an increase in government subsidy to cover about sixty per cent of current expenditure. The University has reason to hope that its application will succeed.

This will lead to the further expansion of facilities and accommodation and will increase the need for additional capital expenditure.

Government subsidy and student's fees may however only be used for specified purposes. The University needs free income for other special purposes.

Interest and redemption on capital expenditure are also subsidised by the government. The University is however expected to meet a substantial part of the capital expenditure from its Development Fund which must be collected from the public.

Interest earned by the Development Fund will be used to provide the University with free income for special purposes such as supplementing salaries to obtain or retain the services of specially-qualified academics. Part of the cost of bringing world-famous academics from overseas, and other special undertakings such as the establishment of the Institute for Advanced Mathematics, scholarships, loans and bursaries, must also be met from the proceeds of the Development Fund.

Although funds have been raised on a small scale in the past, plans for the new campus necessitate a well-organized and concerted fund-raising campaign. Even without such a campaign, R200,000 has been raised thus far. The most important contributors have been the City Councils of Pretoria, Johannesburg and Germiston, and Sanlam, Iscor and the Reserve Bank.

The site donated by the City Council of Pretoria is valued at R150,000. The City Council will be considering a further large donation in cash in the near future.

Through its contribution to the improvement of the qualifications of more than 3,600 teachers from all racial groups, the University is making a very important contribution to the improvement of the education of

all sections in South Africa. This alone is a worthy cause.

The University is really only beginning with pioneering work which promises to be an example of great significance to university education throughout the world.

Investment in education creates opportunities for the transmutation of material wealth into an enduring intellectual and cultural heritage.

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2nd December 1963



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