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**PROCEEDINGS OF 2021 MATRICULATION
FEBRUARY 6, 2021
(VIRTUAL CEREMONY)**

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

CONTENTS

Order of Proceedings	2
Welcome/Declaration of Purpose by Registrar	3
Vice-Chancellor's Address	6
Address on Expectations of University Life	14

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, February 6, 2021

- 9.30 a.m.
- Opening
 - National Anthem
 - Statement of Purpose:
College Secretary
 - Vice-Chancellor’s Address
Delivered by the Provost
 - Administration of Matriculation Oath:
College Secretary
 - Address on Expectations of University
Life: Representative of Matriculants
 - Signing of the Matricula
 - University Anthem

**REGISTRAR'S WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY
THE COLLEGE SECRETARY, MR. MICHAEL OPARE ATUAH**

Good morning distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Management of the University of Ghana and the College of Health Sciences, I welcome all of you to today's matriculation ceremony. I wish to inform you that the University has from the 2020-2021 academic year decentralised Matriculation ceremonies to be conducted by the four Colleges. This, therefore, is the session for the College of Health Sciences, which is being held in the virtual mode, owing to challenges and restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This morning's ceremony is to matriculate students who have enrolled for courses leading to undergraduate degrees in the College of Health Sciences, University of Ghana, in the 2020-2021 academic year. We will confer on our new students, membership of the University of Ghana, in line with Article 31 of the University of Ghana Act, 2010, Act 806 which states that:

1. A student admitted to the University shall take the Matriculation Oath and sign the Matriculation Register.
2. A student who fails to sign the Matriculation Register may be prevented from graduating by the University.

Visiting students and other short-stay students who are studying at the University for one or two semesters are not included in this ceremony. However, such non-matriculated students are expected to observe the same rules and regulations as matriculated students, while they are here.

At the University of Ghana, usually the prescribed dress for matriculation is a black gown worn over formal clothes at a ceremony at which academic and administrative senior members are present. This has not been possible this year owing to the COVID-19 concerns outlined earlier.

The ceremony is in three parts:

Part 1: In the first part, we will hear an address from the Vice-Chancellor, to be delivered on his behalf by the Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Reverend Professor Patrick Ferdinand Ayeh-Kumi.

The Provost will tell us the significance of the matriculation oath and what the University and the College expects from its students.

Part 2: During the second part, students will swear the Matriculation Oath to be administered by the College Secretary on behalf of the Registrar of the University – the oath can be found printed in the order of proceedings. You will repeat the words of the Oath after me when it is time for the Oath. After the Oath, one representative of the students will tell us the expectations of the 2020-2021 cohort of students and ceremonially sign the *Matricula*; *matricula* is the Latin word for the Register.

Part 3: The third part of the ceremony takes place online; each student is required to go online and electronically sign the Matriculation Oath and the *Matricula*. That is the record that indeed you are here and commit to accept to abide by the oath that we are about to swear.

Mr. Provost, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I wish to congratulate all colleagues, at all the levels, for the roles they have played in the process of getting students admitted, registered and ready for matriculation.

2020/2021 Matriculation Class, I look forward to seeing a positive engagement in University activities throughout your stay in the University and for that matter the College.

Admissions

All enquiries regarding admission to the University of Ghana should be directed to the Admissions Office located at the Registry, University of Ghana or the College Academic Office at the College Administration, Korle Bu. Contact details could be found online.

Kindly note that admissions for the regular 2020/2021 UG undergraduate programmes and registration have officially ended.

On that note, let me welcome you all once again, to the University of Ghana, College of Health Sciences.

It is now time to call on the Provost, Reverend Professor Patrick Ferdinand Ayeh-Kumi, to deliver his address on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor.

Thank you.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE PROVOST, REV. PROF. FREDINAND AYEH-KUMI

Vice-Chancellor,
Senior Management of the University,
Deans, Directors and Heads of Unit,
Members of Convocation,
Freshmen and Women,
Parents and Guardians,
Distinguished Guests from all over the world,
Ladies and Gentlemen;

INTRODUCTION

It is with great delight that I welcome you to the matriculation ceremony of the University of Ghana for the 2020-2021 academic year. Today marks the beginning of your university experience. I congratulate you on your accomplishments which enabled you to be part of this special event. Today, for the first time in the history of the University, matriculation ceremony is being organized virtually per COVID-19 protocol on social distancing. Ordinarily, you would all have gathered at a colourful ceremony on the Legon campus where you could have in-person interactions with your colleagues, lecturers and administrators. Nonetheless, during the next four years, most of you will be a part of the most respected academic community in Ghana; a community which provides an environment for you to have vast opportunities to expand your understanding of society and the world.

Matriculation into the University of Ghana is a statutory gartering to formally induct freshmen and women as Junior Members into this academically stimulating and socially exciting community. The ceremony which marks a special milestone, is also important for the fact that it offers the opportunity for you, newly admitted students, to pledge your loyalty to the authorities of the University through the administration of the Matriculation Oath. We expect that all students would have signed the Matriculation Oath which is a bond of good behaviour and acceptance of the authority of the Vice-Chancellor, the Chief Disciplinary of the University, as well as all other officers of the University in whom authority has been vested.

In pledging to be of good behaviour, you are committing yourselves to be disciplined and worthy representatives of the University. I expect that matriculants will ponder over the importance of this ceremony and strive to live by the rules and regulations of the University.

ADMISSIONS

Ladies and gentlemen, the University of Ghana has worked with the relevant agencies and has increased its admissions intake this year, following the graduation of the first batch of Senior High School leavers under the Free SHS programme.

For the 2020/2021 academic year, the University has been able to enrol a total of 15,020 undergraduate students. The total enrolment this year shows that 49.5 % females enrolled compared with 50.5% males.

The breakdown of enrolled students according to Colleges is as follows:

COLLEGE	NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS
College of Health Sciences	652
College of Humanities	8,645
College of Basic and Applied Sciences	2,355
College of Education	3,368
Total	15,020

The University also admitted a significant number of students under the following policies on concessionary admission:

- The Affirmative Action Policy for Women;
- Concession for applicants from Less Endowed Schools;
- The Admission of Student-Athletes;
- The Admission of Students with Special Needs.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The social and cultural diversity that the presence of international students promotes at the University of Ghana cannot be overemphasized. Their



Rev. Professor Patrick Ferdinand Aych-Kumi
Provost, College of Health Sciences



Mr. Michael Opare Atuah
College Secretary, College of Health Sciences



**Miss Rachael Effe Oparebea Bennie delivering an address on the
Expectations of University Life**



Matriculants taking the Matriculation Oath

presence enhances a learning atmosphere that enables Ghanaian students to share in relevant experiences necessary to operate in a globalised World. The University of Ghana, therefore, attaches great importance to the presence of international students on our campus. Seventy students have registered so far for the 2020/2021 academic year. Majority of these students are from the African sub-region while the rest are from Asia, Europe and America. Comparing the number of international students enrolled for the 2020/2021 academic year to that of the previous academic year (409), it is obvious that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on our international students' population this year. We warmly welcome you all and appreciate you for choosing to study at the University of Ghana during these uncertain times. Feel at home and enjoy your stay in Ghana.

ACCOMMODATION

To ensure adequate social distancing during the 2020/2021 academic year in line with COVID-19 safety protocols, two cohorts of students; Levels 100 and 400 are on campus in residence for the first part of the first semester. This arrangement has enabled the University to offer residential accommodation to more first-year students. The traditional halls and the UGEL halls together provided 6,984 beds to fresh students while the private Hostels provided 1,255 beds. A total of 8,239 bed spaces was provided to freshly admitted students.

As part of the University's immediate and long term efforts to provide residential accommodation to as many students as possible (especially newly admitted students), the University has set up a committee which is exploring off-campus facilities to augment the current bed spaces within the University campus. As at the middle of January 2021, more than thirty facility owners within 15 kilometres of the Legon campus have applied to make their facilities available to students of the University from the beginning of the second semester of the 2020/2021 academic year. This option and others will be explored further to help increase bed space available to students to ease the challenge associated with residential accommodation on campus in the near future.

FINANCIAL AID

Ladies and gentlemen, The University's Student Financial Aid Office through the benevolence of donors provide full or partial scholarships to needy students for them to gain access to our world-class research intensive University. During the 2019/2020 academic year, the University was able to award a total of GHS 2,796,519.00 (Two Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Nineteen Cedis) to 981 students. We are indeed grateful to all our cherished donors for their regular support and continuous donation to needy-brilliant students of the University of Ghana.

The Students Financial Aid Office is located at Bungalow Number 11, East Legon (adjacent to Akuafu Hall Annex A).

Financial assistance is also available to undergraduate students through the Students' Loan Trust Fund (SLTF). You may contact the Students' Loan Trust Fund to initiate the process of applying for the Students' Loan. The contact details for the fund can be found in your admission letters.

POLICIES ON STUDENTS' WELFARE

Conducting business amid a pandemic requires that adequate provisions are made to ensure the health and safety of all students on campus. The University has put in place measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among staff and students. I encourage you to adhere to all COVID-19 protocols while you are here on campus.

The University of Ghana also has in place some policies to protect and promote the welfare of its students. This is to ensure that all members of the university operate in an environment free from intimidation, exploitation and abuse. The Anti-Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Counselling Policy and the Library Policy are examples of such policies.

My dear student, please be security conscious throughout your stay on campus. Always secure your valuables and avoid walking alone in dark places late in the night.

EXCELLENCE AND DISCIPLINE

I want to encourage you to strive for excellence in all that you do. Be determined to always be above ordinary standards. The achievements of those who have gone ahead of you should be your motivation to also work hard to attain laurels for yourselves and the University.

The University is governed by rules and regulations and there are procedures for engaging in various activities. It is your responsibility as students to acquaint yourselves with the regulations and follow the procedures accordingly. Discipline and civility must reflect in all your actions during your stay in this academic stimulating environment. Abstain from all kinds of anti-social behaviours because you will be severely sanctioned by the University if you engage in any activity contrary to the rules and regulations.

CONCLUSION

As I conclude, I would like to remind all matriculants that your primary aim in coming to this University is to go through your chosen academic programme and graduate with flying colours. Always keep this in mind as you go about your activities on campus. For many of you, this is the first time in your life that you will be truly living independently. This is an opportunity to grow and learn as a person, to discover who you are, and of course to make new friends. Be determined to make your parents and all the people who have sacrificed to enable you to be here proud. Your Lecturers and Administrators will provide you with the needed mentorship to enable you to accomplish your purpose of being here. Do not forget your God while here because God's guidance will lead you to your expected end.

The University's Careers and Counselling Centre is available to offer assistance if required. Do make time to read notices, listen to Radio Univers on 105.7 FM and regularly visit the University's website www.ug.edu.gh since important information will be communicated to you through these media.

COVID-19 is with us and we are learning to live with it until a cure is found. Do not allow yourself to contract the virus because of your carelessness. Adhere to all COVID-19 protocols wherever you find yourself; wash your hands, wear a face mask and maintain a social distance from the next person.

On behalf of the Council of the University, members of Convocation, and on my behalf, I would like to congratulate you on your admission and welcome you once again to the University of Ghana.

Thank you and God bless you all.

**EXPECTATIONS OF UNIVERSITY LIFE DELIVERED BY
MISS RACHAEL EFFE OPAREBEA BENNIE**

Chairman and Members of the University Council,
Vice-Chancellor,
Pro-Vice-Chancellors,
Provosts, Deans and Directors,
Heads of Department,
Heads of Halls and Senior Tutors,
Members of Convocation,
Fresh Students,
Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is with great delight that I welcome you all heartily to the 2021 matriculation ceremony of the University of Ghana. I consider it a great privilege and honour to be asked to speak on the expectations of fresh students of the 2020/2021 academic year. This ceremony marks the entry of students into this institution of higher learning.

I am sure we were all happy to have gained admission to the University Ghana. I vividly recall the expression on my face when I got the text message saying I had gained admission to the University of Ghana. I hurriedly rushed to tell my parents and I could see the excitement on their faces when I told them. I had to prepare; buy books, clothes, devices and all other things I would need for this new phase of my life. This was an adventure, so I had to prepare to face all odds and this brought anxiety and fear of the unknown. I got various sessions of advice from family and friends.

Certainly, we have all come with different expectations. For some, going for lectures delights them, others would want to have fun; go for parties and various programmes and for some, it is the freedom from their parents in order to do as they please. There are several other expectations which I cannot mention for lack of time. Whichever the reason, we are all glad to be here.

However, not all that we anticipated have been a reality. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed everything. We now have to wear face masks and

some, if not all lectures are now being held online. Large gatherings must now be avoided and this has affected sporting activities and other co-curricular activities. We are gradually beginning to realize that the fun we anticipated is a tough choice. For those who were enthralled about going to lectures, I believe we can all agree that it comes along with some discomfort and with online lectures, poor network may sometimes prevent students from having access to the full lecture, causing us not to fully understand the concept of what is being taught.

Gaining accommodation on campus was a struggle; since the number of admitted students exceeds the number of available spaces. As such, some students could not get accommodation. We were introduced to Sakai; a wonderful online portal designed by the University to facilitate online teaching and learning on campus. However, some freshmen are still struggling to fully understand how to use the online portal to its maximum.

In spite of all these challenges, we expect to be trained and equipped to have knowledge in both the theoretical and the practical aspects of the courses we are pursuing. This demands that we use chemicals, state of the art tools, machines and devices.

We expect to gain in-depth knowledge not for academic work only but for life. This knowledge gained will help us to handle any challenges we may face along life's journey.

Our main aim in this University is to study in order to maximize our potentials to help ourselves and others and so we are fully prepared to devote our time to learn and acquire knowledge and skills to help solve complex problems.

Fellow students, it is a new dawn for all of us today, and by the grace of God, in some few years to come we will all graduate successfully. I therefore charge all of us to make the most of the opportunity afforded us by our parents and guardians. Let's ensure that we attend classes, shun all forms of deviant behaviours and vices, and focus on why we are here.

To this end, be merry! Have fun, meet people, make friends but let us remember our background and avoid making hasty decisions. We must adhere strictly to all COVID-19 protocols that have been put in place in

order to make our stay in the University a safe and successful one.
Once again, congratulations to all matriculating students.

Thank you and may God bless us all.

