



# UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SPECIAL REPORTER

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

---

NO. 847

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2015

VOL. 53

NO. 6

---

**COLLEGE OF BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENCES  
PROCEEDINGS OF CONGREGATION  
JULY 24, 2015**

**CONTENTS**

Order of Proceedings	2
Welcome Remarks by Member of Council	3
Vice-Chancellor’s Address	4
Addresses by Guest Speakers	18
Valedictory Speech	21
Closing Remarks by Member of Council	24

**ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Friday, 24th July, 2015, 2.00 p.m.**

**Procession**

(The Congregation is asked to stand)

National Anthem

**Welcome/Declaration of Purpose:**

Professor John Hyde, Member, University Council

**Vice-Chancellor's Address:** Prof. Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor

*Guest Speaker:* Mr. Felix Nyarko-Pong, Managing Director, UniBank Ghana and Chairman, Advisory Board, College of Education

*Conferment of Degrees:* Presentation of graduands from

- PhD/MPhil
- Master of Science
- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
- Bachelor of Science
- Diplomas

*Valedictory address:* Mr. Frank Kofi Boadi

Chairman of Council dissolves Congregation

University Anthem

(The Congregation is asked to remain seated until all officials and graduands have left the Hall.)

**OPENING ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR JOHN HYDE,  
MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL**

Members of the University Council,  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Guest Speaker,  
Members of Convocation,  
Members of the College of the Humanities Advisory Board,  
Staff and students,  
Alumni,  
Graduands,  
Invited Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

I have great pleasure in welcoming you all warmly to this afternoon's ceremony on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Chancellor of the University. I also extend his greetings and best wishes to all of you gathered here on this important occasion.

The congregation ceremonies planned for this weekend are significant in two ways. These will be the first congregation ceremonies organised since the University of Ghana adopted the collegiate system of governance. It will also be first time that the ceremonies are being held on a College basis. I understand it is the first of the two congregation ceremonies planned for the 2014/2015 cohort of students. The next one has been scheduled to take place in November 2015. I also note that there are some students who actually belong to the 2013/2014 cohort who are being presented today. I wish the graduands the very best on this special occasion. We share in your joy from the successful completion of your degrees and we are very proud of you.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delighted to declare this afternoon's assembly duly constituted for the award of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates of the University of Ghana to successful graduands and also to receive a report from the Vice-Chancellor. It is customary for the Vice-Chancellor to give us his report at this forum on developments taking place at the University over the last academic year. I therefore invite the Vice-Chancellor to present his report to Congregation.

Thank you.

## **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT CONGREGATION: COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Professor John Hyde, representing the Chairman of the University Council;  
Honourable Ministers of State and Members of Parliament;  
Pro-Vice Chancellors;  
Registrar;  
Provosts of the different Colleges  
Guest Speaker, Mr. Felix Nyarko-Pong, CEO of Unibank and Chairman of College of Education Advisory Board;  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;  
Members of University Council and Members of Convocation;  
Members of the Advisory Board of College of Education;  
Niimeɪ, Naameɪ, Nananom;  
Graduating Students;  
Parents and Guardians;  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

### **Welcome**

On behalf of University management I welcome you all to today's congregation ceremony, the first for the 2014/2015 academic year.

Four ceremonies are being held over two days, with a total of 3,514 students graduating. Another set of graduation ceremonies will be held in November.

This afternoon's ceremony will see 1,402 students of the College of Education graduating with the degrees due them.

### **Governance**

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the University of Ghana officially inaugurated the collegiate system of governance at the start of the 2014/2015 academic year. The system has been running for almost one calendar year, and I think now would be a good time to examine what has been achieved over the last year and do a brief assessment of what we set out to accomplish, and how far we have come towards reaching our targets.

The introduction of the collegiate system was meant to decentralize decision-making and thereby reduce bureaucracy and free officers at the centre, particularly the Vice Chancellor, Registrar and administrative director from some administrative duties, while creating more room for innovation at the school and college levels. Colleges have become semi-autonomous and able to take more decisions on their academic programmes and administration.

As part of the process, the University's statutes were amended to allow for the establishment of the new Colleges and for the amendment of the structure of the College of Health Sciences.

Officers of the colleges have been appointed, and administrative structures have been put in place. I am glad to say that the Colleges have all started well, and are working towards meeting the objectives for which they were established.

Advisory Boards for all the Colleges have been established and inaugurated, and are working with college administrations to guide the Colleges in developing strategies; fostering effective links between the College and external communities; and helping to maintain and enhance the image and reputation of the Colleges.

The University's strategic plan was completed and launched in December last year, for the period 2014 to 2024, and is expected to provide strategic direction to the University for the next decade.

The colleges are working on their individual strategic plans; with a new focus on research. Other areas of interest are; Teaching and Learning; Strengthening Linkages with Industry; Information, Communication and Technology; Student, faculty and staff recruitment, retention and development; Asset acquisition and management; Financial planning and process management; Gender and Diversity; Internal and external stakeholders and Monitoring and evaluation. The individual plans all dovetail into the University's plan, and are expected to contribute towards transforming the University into a world class university which has research at the core of its functions.

The Colleges have done significant work on the rationalization of programmes and courses; the introduction of new programmes and the revision of existing ones.

Most colleges are doing well in the area of research productivity and visibility, and are taking advantage of the new opportunities and funding available, to carry out groundbreaking research with collaboration from local and international partners. The colleges are also all involved in fund-raising.

As the colleges enter their second year of operation, we shall all continue to work hard to ensure that they meet their targets of increasing efficiency and reducing bureaucracy. A thorough review of the collegiate system will take place after the system has been in operation for three years.

### **Academic Affairs**

Your Excellencies, for the 2014/2015 academic year, the University received a total of 37,

326, applications for admission, made up of 30, 083 undergraduate and 7, 243 graduate applications.

The University admitted a total of 11, 944 undergraduate applicants and 2, 939 graduate applicants into programmes on the Main, Korle Bu, and Accra City campuses, and into the Distance Education programme. The University has intensified efforts to achieve gender parity in the admission of students, and the percentage of females admitted to all programmes continues to rise.

The University of Ghana Policy on Admission for Athlete Students (UG-PAAS) was introduced at the start of the 2014/2015 academic year. The policy is expected to promote the growth and development of students' performance in sports, thereby creating a sustainable relationship between sports and academic performance. The policy allows for the admission of talented sports men and women whose grades qualify them to enter the university but are not competitive enough for them to be gain admission ordinarily. 32 students were admitted under the policy last year, and all indications are that they are doing well. One of these students won the Ghana Universities Sports Associations (GUSA) cross country event, and four others came within the first ten competitors.

346 foreign students enrolled in programmes in the University in the 2014/2015 academic year, a sharp decrease from previous years. It is obvious that this decline was mainly occasioned by the spread of the Ebola pandemic in the sub-region. We hope that with the end of the pandemic, enrolment figures will go up significantly. The University is in the process of engaging Recruitment Officers to assist the Office of International Programmes achieve international enrolment targets set by the University; and proactively recruit students in the face of increasing global competition. A review of internationalization in the University, which was recently conducted, made very useful recommendations regarding improving student experience and mobility, teaching to international standards, attitudes and perceptions.

### **Enhancing Skills of Students**

To make our students more competitive in the job market, efforts are being made to sharpen their critical skills. This effort is being spearheaded by the Counseling and Placement Centre through various programmes such as leadership training, peer counseling and career week events.

### **Developments in Distance Education programme**

There are new developments in our Distance Education programme, aimed at improving on delivery and making the distance learning mode more attractive to students. One of such is the restructuring and expansion of the programmes on offer. Starting from this year, Distance Education students were admitted to regional learning centres, and with the improvement of facilities in the centres, the students will have all tutorials and

examinations in their centres, without having to come down to Legon, as has been the practice over the years. Programme offerings have been expanded to include Nursing and Information Technology, both of which have been highly subscribed.

### **Academic Prizes**

The University has approved 18 new academic prizes with a value of over 150 thousand Ghana cedis, making a total of 61 university-wide prizes. More than 80,000 Ghana cedis has been received in the current academic year from individuals and corporate organizations towards the sponsorship of awards.

I encourage all staff members, corporate organizations and other stakeholders to consider sponsoring awards.

### **Financial Aid for Students**

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the 2014/2015 academic year ended with a total donation inflow from both local and foreign donors of GH¢639,912.09 towards financial aid for students. I am proud to note that the University contributed GH¢103,932.00 of this amount from its internally generated funds. Additionally, the University and General Electric, have signed a memorandum of understanding covering a US\$100,000 scholarship package for needy brilliant students of University of Ghana. Under the agreement, one hundred students will have their tuition and residential fees fully paid until they complete their studies.

We salute all our donors and encourage other corporate sponsors and individuals to assist us to fund the education of students who would otherwise have to interrupt or terminate their studies.

### **Physical Developments**

In March 2011, President John Evans Atta Mills, cut the sod at the University for the commencement of work for the relocation of the College of Health Sciences from the Korle Bu campus to Legon. That same year, a loan facility was secured by GoG from an Israeli bank for the construction of a 617-bed Teaching Hospital for the University of Ghana at a total cost of US\$217 million. This project is an integral part of the ‘Medical Village’ concept that is to enable the University produce world-class health educators, experts and researchers in all sub-specialties to make health delivery in Ghana independent, sustainable and progressive.

The Hospital will have state-of-the-art facilities for trauma and emergency services, heart surgery, medical imaging, and a heliport, and will eventually be expanded into a 1,300 bed facility to provide effective teaching, learning and patient care. Future construction will cover a Cancer Centre and a Rehabilitation Building.

When completed, the University of Ghana Medical Centre will place the University of

Ghana as one of the most advanced medical training institutions in West Africa.

As part of the project package about 80 Ghanaian personnel will undergo training at the Sheba Medical Centre in Israel.

20 Senior Specialists and Consultants have already started their training in Israel; nurses, administrators, biomedical engineers, and pharmacists will also receive training in the coming weeks.

It is expected that the Hospital will start working by March 2016.

The University of Ghana has entered into a landmark US\$64million project agreement with Africa Integras, a company that invests early-risk capital to develop education infrastructure. The partnership involves Africa Integras helping the University achieve a financially sustainable structure to address its infrastructure expansion needs. The project, which is structured as a 25-year Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT), is the first of its kind with a public university in Africa.

The project will involve the construction of an expanded facility for the College of Humanities, a new College of Education, a new dedicated facility for the College of Basic and Applied Sciences and the Institute of Applied Science and Technology, as well as a new facility for the College of Health Sciences, to be located near the new teaching hospital. 1,000 new student hostel beds will be provided under the project, to be divided between undergraduate and graduate students mostly to serve the College of Health Sciences. Construction is expected to commence by September, 2015 with a targeted completion date of September 2017.

### **Research, Innovation and Development**

Chancellor, you recently called on universities to invest in research if they are to have an impact on the African continent and stay relevant to the needs of the global market place.

I am proud to announce that the four centres of excellence established in the University have been allocated GHC 1 million each as seed money to develop research areas in Climate Change Adaptation; Malaria Research; Food Production and Processing; and Development Policy and Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation to address key developmental issues in Ghana and beyond. The University has earmarked US\$5 million for refurbishment of laboratories and the replacement of obsolete scientific equipment. Through the Chinese phase II ICT project, the University is now in a position to house large datasets for research and also do more computing research than before. I think we can safely conclude that our investment in research is paying off.

At the end of the review process for the 8th call for proposals for UG Research Grants, 31 grants with a total value of GHC 996,723 were awarded in the three grant categories.

39 applications for UG Conference Grants with a total value of GHC 187,990 have been approved for funding so far in the 2014/2015 academic year. A final review session for the academic year will take place later this month.

A total of GHC 284,538 was awarded as faculty development grants this academic year. Since the inception of this scheme in the 2008/2009 academic year, a total of GHC 1,083,250 has been awarded to 85 faculty members. Of this number, as many as 31 have successfully obtained their PhDs or other terminal degrees, and returned to active teaching and research duties at the university. We are also exploring alternative faculty development schemes such as a UG postdoctoral research fellowship scheme.

Faculty and students of the University continue to benefit from a number of capacity building grants. Some of these are CAPREx; where faculty members spend up to 6 months at the University of Cambridge to work on a research topic with a Cambridge based collaborator; the Climate Impact Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement (CIRCLE) Programme, which offers one-year fellowships to support early career researchers on the impact of climate change in Africa; the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan; and the ACU STARS (*Structured Training for African Researchers*) Project.

Others are the Trans-Disciplinary Training for Resource Efficiency and Climate Change Adaptation in Africa – Phase 2); ARISE (Africa Regional International Staff/Student Exchange); Food Security and Sustainable Human Wellbeing Project); P4PHT (Partnering for Health Professional Training in African Universities); CSAA (Inter-University Cooperation to Train Crop Scientists for Enhancing Agriculture in Africa) ; One Health (Enhancing Community of Practice in One Health for Infectious Diseases through Postgraduate Training)

### **External Grant Applications and Overview of Research Funding**

since the beginning of the 2014/ 2015 academic year, 37 research grant agreements with a combined total value of USD 9,579,086 have been signed, while 76 research proposals have been submitted to various sponsors/funders. The total value of proposals submitted for the period under review is \$124,060,123, with 24 proposals so far approved with a total value of \$21,221,754.74

### **2015 Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg Memorial Lectures**

The 2015 Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg Memorial Lectures were delivered by Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, an Indian Literary Theorist, Philosopher and University Professor at Columbia University, and recipient of the 2012 Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy. The topic for the lectures was “Humanities: Asia, the West, Africa”. On the final day of the lectures a special congregation was held, at which Professor Spivak received



Mrs. Mercy Haziell-Ashia, Registrar, making opening remarks at the ceremony



Mrs. Emelia Agyei-Mensah, College Secretary, College of Education speaking at the ceremony



Rev. Prof. Cephas Omenyo, Provost, College of Education, acknowledging international students of the College



**Professor John Hyde, Member, University Council, delivering the Welcome Address**



**Professor Ernest Aryeetey, Vice-Chancellor, addressing the gathering**



**Mr. Felix Nyarko-Pong, delivering the Guest Speaker's Address**



**Mr. Frank Kofi Boadi, delivering the Valedictory address**



Graduands seated at Congregation





**Graduands being congratulated by Officials and Dignitaries**





**Members of convocation, officials and guest speaker in a group photograph**



**Some parents and guardians at the ceremony**

an Honorary Degree from University of Ghana. The Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg Lectures are sponsored by Unibank Ghana Limited.

### **Rankings**

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, permit me to touch briefly on the issue of the University's rankings. Rankings are very important, as they help influence among others, the choice of students to attend particular institutions, funding from donor agencies, research affiliations, and indeed, also grant institutions the chance to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and put in place remedial measures. The latest university rankings compiled by Thomson Reuters places the University of Ghana in the 10th position among African universities. This is the best position we have ever attained in any rankings, and it is exciting to observe that our placement in the rankings has consistently improved across all the major ranking organizations. The Times Higher Education list of the top 15 Universities in Africa places the University of Ghana at number 12. In the Webometrics ranking for Africa, the University of Ghana moved from number 52 in 2009 to 19 at the beginning of 2015. In the QS ranking, we remain one of only four universities from Sub-Saharan Africa listed for the first time ever in 2015. The University of Ghana has therefore become the highest ranked university in West Africa across all the different tables, and I applaud all colleagues, students and stakeholders of the University who have enabled us attain this feat. We will definitely not rest on our laurels, but will work even harder to ensure that our rankings go even higher both on the continent and internationally.

### **Well Wishes to Graduands**

Now to our graduating students:

Seeing you all here, at the threshold of starting the next phase of your lives, brings back memories of my own graduation ceremonies from various educational institutions, many years ago, and reminds me of the excitement, the trepidation about what the future might hold, and the zeal I had to go out and change the world. No doubt, most of you gathered here are going through similar feelings and thoughts. Today's world offers young graduates so many opportunities, yet so many challenges; so many potential positive outcomes yet so many pitfalls along the way. I challenge you all to go out into the world, and do the very best you can wherever you find yourself. Work hard, dream big, plan ahead, be ethical and honest in all your dealings, and you will be well on the way towards success. The future may not be given, but you have a clean slate. Go out there, write on your slate in bold characters and make your mark! I wish you all the very best.

Thank you and God bless.

## **GUEST SPEAKER ADDRESS BY MR. FELIX NYARKO-PONG**

Chancellor of the University,  
Chairman of the University Council,  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Officials of the University,  
Members of the Advisory Board of the College of Education,  
Members of Convocation,  
Graduating students  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon.

On behalf of the Advisory Board of the College of Education, University of Ghana, I have great pleasure in welcoming you all warmly to the first graduation ceremony of the College of Education.

It is an honour for me, as Chairman of the Advisory Board, to be asked to double up as the Guest Speaker at today's graduation ceremony of students of the College of Education, who having satisfied the requirements for the various programmes, are being awarded degrees and diplomas, and I am grateful to the University Authorities.

Today is a very special day and a proud moment for many of us here in different ways. It is a happy occasion for the granduands because they are being awarded degrees; it is a proud moment for the parents and guardians because their dreams of giving their wards education has finally come to fruition; and it is an achievement for the University because it has been successful in providing higher education to students who will now step forward in life to build their respective career paths and hopefully even progress to be leaders of their respective communities and the country.

I congratulate all of you graduating students. The degrees and diplomas you receive today is an announcement to the world that you are ready to progress to the next phase of your lives. You are no doubt reflecting on the sacrifices and accomplishments of the recent past and the hope, excitement and responsibility of the future. It is indeed a moment of excitement and fear with many not too certain about the direction in which you want to go from here.

I can assure you that the good education and training you have received at this great university has empowered you to be independent and confident, with the potential to contribute meaningfully to society. Success will however depend on your own determination and focus.

As you step out and away from the guidance of your teachers and even your parents, you are like a bird about to test your wings. Whether you will be like a sparrow, wandering far from home, its small frame travelling light and flying over high seas, mountains and trees or become like a chicken, having the security of a parents' home and knowing that there are worlds out there, but content to know them only in dreams or even become both a sparrow and a chicken (and thus smartly adventurous!) are options open to you.

Whatever your option is there are challenges and competing interests.

First our economy is not growing enough to absorb all of you graduates into the work force. There is an estimated 200k graduates out there from the 81 universities and colleges e.t.c who are unemployed and you will be competing with them. For the vacancies that come up also you may find your skills not exactly suitable for the available roles, especially as regards the soft skills set. You may therefore be a step ahead if you rather than spending time on social media, continue on your own to develop and improve upon yourselves and on the soft skills. You must also like the sparrow, remember at all times that your opportunities are not limited to your environment (and Ghana), but that we are part of a globalised interconnected world. With a computer or mobile phone and internet access, you can research, continue to learn and stay relevant and ahead of peers.

Some of the most notable people in society today did not even make it as far as you have, in terms of education. Think of the Steve Jobs', the Bill Gates and countless others. They made it by venturing out of their comfort zones, thinking outside the box, researching at all times and not giving up when challenges set in. It is my wish that each one of you will have courage and determination, and that you will own your development and create opportunities for yourselves rather than expecting them. Every class you have sat in, every essay written, and every certification you have earned, have all prepared you to adapt to change and challenges. The important thing is you have already taken the initial steps needed to build a more promising future.

As echoed by the great visionary Nelson Mandela said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".

As you leave here today, ask yourself, how can I be innovative? Perhaps it is in doing the same old things in a new way, or coming together with friends to start something small and growing it. Perhaps it is in a careful study of what a company is doing and putting together a presentation to the company of how you think you can help them add more value to what they do.

Submitting and making presentations will feature a lot in your future; whether it is in presentation of yourself or your work. It is for this reason that I will take the opportunity to encourage the College to include *Presentation & Education* as a key soft skill curricular. I

cannot say enough how many times I have seen a brilliant person get passed over either because they did not present themselves or their ideas well. For in many instances, the hard skill will open the door, but what will get your feet into the door and up the stairs, is the soft skills. It is important that you have at your fingertips what you are presenting, who you are presenting to and how best to present it.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the University Authorities and faculty for the good work done on the grandaunds. I am particularly pleased with the internship programme whereby students are attached to businesses during vacations. My wish is that many faculty members will be also encouraged to do same and attach to businesses now and then. This will help bridge very quickly the industry skills gap and also deepen application of the technical knowledge.

Finally let me congratulate you the graduating students once again and wish you well as you enter the real world. With discipline, humility and a can do attitude, I have no doubt the good Lord will by Grace enable you all to fulfil your worthwhile aspiration, to help in the development of Ghana and humankind.

Mr Vice Chancellor, Chairman of University Council and Provost, I thank you all for the honour and God be with us all.

**VALEDICTORY SPEECH DELIVERED BY FRANK KOFI BOADI**

Acting Chairman of the University Council, Professor John Hyde;  
Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ernest Aryeetey;  
Members of the University Council;  
Pro-Vice Chancellors;  
Registrar;  
Guest Speaker;  
Members of Convocation;  
Fellow Graduands;  
Friends and families;  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today is the day. Graduating Class of 2015; today is our day. Talking of “our day”, I reckon, many of us still hold nostalgic memories of our young years, when “our day” marked one of the most exciting times at school. I’m sure like me, you all yearned for that last day at school. My interest then was not so much about my report card, which depending on your home determined whether you got gifts because you were top of your class, a beating or a scolding because you were perched at the bottom of the class or just ignored because you were placed somewhere in between the top and bottom. I was most excited about the fact that “our day” was different from all the other days at school. We had drinks and food in lunch boxes and baskets, colourful decorations in our classrooms, and there was music for us to dance. On that day, I was guaranteed that there would be no caning for being naughty. After all it was “our day”.

And like today, many of us have waited and yearned for this day. For some, it has been just a few months of waiting; for others, the wait has been longer. However, no matter how long we have waited, there could be no better day than this day, this time, and this moment.

The many nights we lay awake, haunted by the words “this is not a good research topic”, are officially over today. For those of us who are married, our abandonment of our matrimonial beds, to meet if not beat the fast approaching deadline for chapter submissions of our theses will no longer be the case, at least for now. And for my colleagues from the Communication Studies Department, summaries are over. Today we crown all the sacrifices that we and our loved ones have made in our pursuit of higher academic credentials. Today we sing, dance, and shout with thanks to God that we have come out successful.

The story of our individual journeys and varied experiences in this great institution cannot be told in any single book. Some experiences have marked turning points for some of us, yielding breakthroughs we have so long prayed for. Others may have had not so pleasant experiences. While some of these can be expressed in words; many others remain

unspoken. In all our struggles, gains, achievements and joyous moments while traversing this great campus, one thing has remained clear in our minds: our primary purpose; to attain higher education. The education that makes our country, societies, our families and us better. An education which would reveal the treasures latent in us and which mankind would benefit from.

No matter what the road has been for us, we must be thankful. We must thank our professors, lecturers, administrators and all the other workers who have honoured their duties to ensure that this one purpose is achieved. At this juncture, I kindly request all graduands to please rise and show our gratitude with applause to every person whose work whether directly or indirectly has contributed to the success we celebrate today. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, gathered here, are people who hold the key to the advancement of this nation. I see before me potential achievers and thinkers, academics, politicians, musicians and other intelligent people whose work would have significant effect on the course this country takes towards becoming the great nation its founding fathers so dreamed of. However, Ghana's quest to greatness is no longer laid on the shoulders of Nkrumah and the Big Six. It requires that all of us here, who are such a good representation of the Ghanaian community work at upholding our civic responsibilities.

As graduates, it is our charge to effect change in our society, in our communities and in our homes. We have learnt theories that help us understand phenomena better, anticipate incidences and explain why things are as they are. It is not enough to recite these theories if we can't internalise them to improve our society. The changes occurring in this nation require that the learned, and that includes us, show the way by exhibiting strong civic virtues. It is our responsibility to this institution and to this nation. I pledge today to work at that; to build on my civic character and be more responsible than I have ever been, and I pray you will all do the same.

Acting Chairman of Council, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I would have acted prejudicially if I, having been granted this rare privilege to speak at this august gathering, failed to mention the many transformations presently going on at the University of Ghana. I see the dream to transform the university into a world-class institution as not just a dream in an individual's mind, but a reality which posterity can benefit from and be proud of. In the year 2001, when I enrolled into a Bachelor of Arts programme, registering for courses was as wearisome as engaging in manual labour on a construction site. Today, course registration is done online. Again in 2001, I wavered in my decision to polish or clean my shoes while preparing for lectures, because they were bound to be discoloured from red dust after every walk to "tingi tingi" from Commonwealth Hall. Today many parts of the university have been paved and students walking around in their white apparel and white shoes has become a common sight.

Now this is what excites me the most. The fact that I could pay, and actually paid, my graduation fees through UG pay. This means no more queuing and long hours in the bank. Kudos University of Ghana for showing the way.

My fellow graduands, a few years back, a gentleman in a similar capacity as I have now, called out to his graduating class to be ambassadors of change. Four years on, I echo that call today. I call on us all “to proceed with integrity”, as the motto of this great institution urges us, for we owe this to generations to come.

Congratulations to us all!  
Long live the University of Ghana,  
Long live mother Ghana  
Thank You.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY MEMBER OF COUNCIL,  
PROFESSOR JOHN HYDE**

Members of Council,  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Guest Speaker,  
Members of Convocation,  
Members of the college of Education Advisory Board,  
Staff and Students,  
Alumni,  
Fresh Graduates,  
Invited Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

As we end today's function, I would like to express my appreciation to all who have worked hard to ensure a successful congregation ceremony .

These new graduates are mostly from the second cohort of the new 4-year degree programme.They had to contend with the new system with its teething problems. They are the ones who did not give up but persevered to the end. They deserve all the laurels that they have acquired.

For the Teachers and Administrators who have had to learn this system alongside the students in order to get them to this point of their graduation. The University appreciates the efforts you have put into this enterprise.

To the Graduate Students who have been part of the changes taking place at the University of Ghana, I hope some of you will consider joining the University to support the drive to become a research intensive university. We expect that those who do not make it back here will consider joining other tertiary institutions in Ghana as well as the public and private sectors.

I salute all those who played various roles in the planning and organization of this event to ensure its success.

All parents, guardians, families and friends of the graduates who have travelled from far and near to join the graduates in this celebration also deserve our thanks and appreciation for being with us today.

To our Guest Speaker for today, all invited guests, alumni and friends of the University we say we always appreciate your presence and participation in this event. I wish you a safe journey back.

To our new graduants and fresh Alumni, I congratulate you on your new achievements and urge you all to be worthy ambassadors of your alma mater. I call upon you constantly to remember the University's Motto: "Integri Procedamus" or lets make progress with integrity.

I wish you all good success in your future endeavours. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen it is now my privilege and duty as Acting Chairman of the University Council to declare today's congregation dissolved.

Thank you.

