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**PROCEEDINGS OF MATRICULATION
2010/2011
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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- 8.30 a.m.–9.00 a.m. – Guests to be seated
- 9.00 a.m. – Academic Procession
- Introductory Remarks by Registrar:
Mr. J. M. Budu
- Vice-Chancellor’s Address:
Prof. Ernest Aryeetey
- Cultural Performance:
Ghana Dance Ensemble
- Matriculation Oath
- Expectations of University Life:
Abigail Beduwaa Mensah
Akuafo Hall
- Signing of the Matricula
- University Anthem
- 10.00 a.m. – Recession
- Reception

ADDRESS BY VICE-CHANCELLOR PROFESSOR ERNEST AYEETEY

The Chairman of Council
Members of the University Council
Pro-Vice-Chancellors
Registrar
Provosts
Deans and Directors
Heads of Departments
Heads of Halls
Senior Tutors
Members of Convocation
Distinguished Invited Guests
Freshmen and Women
Parents and Guardians
Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to begin my first matriculation address as Vice-Chancellor by welcoming all of you to this matriculation ceremony.

Let me first explain why we go through this ceremony annually. The matriculation ceremony is essential not only because it marks the formal admission of students into the University, but also because it is the occasion during which matriculants pledge their allegiance to the authority of the University. It is the occasion during which matriculants are enjoined, through the administration of the Matriculation Oath, to be obedient to the Vice-Chancellor, the Chief Disciplinarian of the University, as well as the other Officers of the University.

In pledging to be of good behaviour, new students are committing themselves to avoiding indiscipline and disorderliness.

It is my hope that the matriculants of this year will take the proceedings of the ceremony very seriously, and will also endeavour to live in accordance with the rules and regulations of the University while pursuing their programmes. We need the support, loyalty, commitment and cooperation of both students and staff to make this University a world-class institution of higher learning.

ADMISSIONS

Ladies and gentlemen, admissions into this University continue to be increasingly competitive. The University continues to receive large numbers of applications for admission each year. However, due to the limited facilities and human resources in the University, we are forced each year to turn down the applications of many otherwise qualified applicants.

For the current year for instance, the University was able to offer admission to a little over 7,800 applicants, out of about 16,297 undergraduate applications received. And out of the number offered admission, 5,197 have duly registered. I must point out however that the number of registered students does not include students from the Accra City Campus and the Faculty of Law. It is worth noting that 39.85% of the registered students are female.

It is also worth emphasizing that the University of Ghana has not relented in its effort to promote Distance Education Programmes. In fact, appropriate steps are currently being taken to improve on the quality of the Distance Education Programmes organized by the University. I am happy to inform you that a total of about 622 students have been enrolled into the Distance Education Programme.

There continues to be direct entry into Level 100 at the Accra City Campus, where about 624 students have been offered admission. It is hoped that with improvement in infrastructure and facilities at the City Campus, the University will be able to increase the intake of qualified applicants in the coming years.

Although the bulk of admissions involve applicants with SSSCE qualifications, admissions to the graduate programmes also increased significantly. The University received a total of 3,435 graduate applications, and offered admission to a total of 1,498 applicants, of which 1,108 have enrolled.

The University of Ghana continues to promote multi-cultural education through the admission of foreign students. For 2010, a total of 752 students of various nationalities have been admitted by the University. This includes students from the sub-region, including Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Togo. In addition, there are currently in the University some students on exchange programmes from our partner institutions in Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

In concluding this section of my report on admissions, I would like to note that the University continues to offer admissions to qualified applicants from the Less Endowed Schools to pursue programmes in the Humanities, Business, and Engineering Sciences. As is the usual practice, the University has been waiving the Academic Facility User Fees (AFUF) for qualified students from these schools.

ACCOMMODATION

The issue of accommodation continues to be a great source of concern to the authorities of this University, and that is why the University continues to make every effort to improve upon the accommodation situation on campus. As part of efforts to minimize accommodation problems on campus, a loan facility was contracted from a consortium of banks for the construction of the 7,800 student capacity Hostels. I am happy to note that one of the blocks of the new Students Hostels was recently inaugurated and named after Dr. Hilla Limann, former President of the Republic of Ghana. It is worth noting that the new Hostels have started admitting students into residence for the 2010/2011 academic year.

Ladies and gentlemen, with respect to the issue of Commonwealth Hall, I wish to take this opportunity once again to stress the point that the decongestion exercise carried out in the Hall was not meant to be a form of punishment or “victimization” as it is being portrayed. It is an attempt by management to ensure that students are provided with healthy and sanitized residential facilities. In fact, it is the long-term plan of the University to decongest all the traditional Halls of Residence, as part of the efforts to build a much better place for learning.

At a recent meeting with students of the University to discuss the accommodation problems on campus, a request was made by students to the effect that the hostel charges should be reduced by the University, in order to make the hostel accommodation affordable for students. We have a lot of sympathy for students as they go through the challenges of finding accommodation on campus. We will continue to assist in any way possible to ease the situation. The University of Ghana will consider increasing its subsidy to students who decide to take up residence in the new hostels and will negotiate for a lower rent with UGEL in the coming days.

FINANCIAL AID TO STUDENTS

As a result of the large number of requests for financial aid from students,

following the introduction of the Academic Facilities User Fees (AFUF), the University instituted a policy in 2005 to help address the finance-related problems that a number of brilliant but needy students encounter while pursuing academic programmes in the University. The University has over the years been providing some financial assistance to deserving students who, without such assistance, may be unable to meet their financial obligations at the University. The assistance given by the University is primarily in the form of full and partial scholarships. In addition to the scholarships, the University offers paid part-time jobs to interested students, to enable them earn some income while pursuing their respective programmes.

For 2009, the Students' Financial Aid Office awarded a total of 192 scholarships, comprising 131 University of Ghana (UG) Needy Students' scholarships, and 61 special scholarships.

University of Ghana (UG) Needy Students Scholarships

There are two rounds of applications under this scheme. One in December for continuing students and the other in August for newly admitted students. The SFAO was unable to administer scholarships to newly admitted students in the 2009/2010 academic year due to the unavailability of funds. For the 2009/2010 academic year, the office processed 176 applications, awarded scholarships to 131 students and disbursed a total of GH¢20,038. Applications for the 2010/2011 academic year will be received when the advertisements come out in November or December this year. Interested needy students, especially females, should look out for the advert.

It must be noted that apart from the funds contributed by the University towards the education of the brilliant but needy students, contributions are also received from both public and private organisations, as well as individuals. In fact, the Students' Financial Aid Office (SFAO) has over the years been receiving sponsorship from governmental agencies, as well as individuals and organizations. For 2009 for instance, the Office received sponsorship from:

- HFC Bank Ghana Limited
- Ghana Reinsurance Company
- University of Ghana Chaplaincy Board
- Legon Interdenominational Church (LIC)
- Lebanese Women's Association of Ghana.

Coupled with the above, contributions were made by some foreign sponsors, such as the:

- All Nations International (USA)
- Educational Pathways International (USA)
- Tertiary Educational Scholarship Trust (TEST) for Ghana (UK).

ICT

The University has continued to expand its ICT facilities in order to be current with the requirements of its stakeholders. In response to the ever increasing demand, the University has upgraded its bandwidth from 13Mbps to 25Mbps, and this has greatly improved the speed of internet access.

Further improvement and expansion of the network infrastructure is being carried out in separate projects by MTN and the Chinese Government, through the Tsinghua University and Tsinghua Unisplendour of China. The latter project is specifically to support the improvement and expansion of the network resources in the University, in readiness for the ICT-based Distance Learning Programme. It is essential to note that about 90% of the Chinese assisted ICT project has been completed. Currently:

- A new ultramodern Network Operations Centre has been commissioned.
- A total of 512 computers have been distributed to relevant laboratories and offices in the University.
- The network has been upgraded, with the installation of fibre optic cables and high performance switches.
- 1,000 new digital phones are being deployed in the University.
- The Institute of Continuing and Distance Education has been equipped with a video conferencing facility.
- A new e-learning platform that makes it possible to incorporate ICT into the distance learning programme has been implemented.
- 41 projectors and screens have been supplied and are being allocated to the academic units.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to assure you that the full impact of the new network would be felt by the end of the year 2010. Appropriate steps are being taken to move all the existing users onto the new network.



Academic procession



Members of Convocation in a group photograph after the ceremony



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ernest Ayeetey, delivering his Address.



Mr. J. M. Budu, Registrar, administering the Matriculation Oath.



Ms. Abigail Beduwaa Mensah delivering an address on the Expectations of University Life.



Ms. Abigail Beduwaa Mensah signing the matricula.



Matriculants taking the Matriculation Oath.



A section of students at the Matriculation ceremony.

ICT Training for Staff and Students

As most of you may be aware, all students of the University are required to undergo training in the use of computers by participating in the Computer Driving License Programme organized by the University. During the 2009/2010 academic year, a total of 9,043 students received ICT training on the main Legon Campus, while 3,720 students also received training at the Accra City Campus. Taking into consideration the importance of computers for academic work in particular, and human life in general, it is hoped that all the fresh students would take advantage of the Computer Driving License Programmes to improve their computer skills.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

As most of you may have noticed, ladies and gentlemen, the University has been experiencing some traffic-related problems in recent times, due to the construction works being carried out on the Legon-Madina Road. Currently, a significant number of motorists use the University Campus as a thoroughfare, and this has brought about a number of security and traffic-related problems. As part of efforts to deal with the traffic issues, a boundary road is currently being constructed between the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and Gulf House, to help reduce the traffic on campus. Arrangements are also being made to re-construct the road from the Institute of African Studies to the private hostels.

EXTRA-CURRICULA ACTIVITIES

My dear matriculants, I wish to assure you that life at this University can be very exciting both intellectually and socially. In addition to the prescribed academic programmes that you would be required to follow, there are also a number of extra curricular activities that you could participate in. These include, among others, the annual Aggrey-Fraser-Guggisberg Memorial Lectures, Inaugural and Inter-Faculty Lectures, Seminars, as well as sporting activities organized under the umbrella of the Amalgamated Sports Clubs.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

It is to be noted that the regulations for the conduct of University examinations are clearly spelt out on pages 43-46 of the Handbook for the Bachelor's Degree. I urge all of you to study the regulations and have them at your finger tips, so that

you would not act contrary to the provisions of the regulations. As the saying goes, ignorance of the law is no excuse. Although the regulations are clearly spelt out in the Handbook, I wish to point out that it is an offence to take any unauthorized material into the examinations hall. The unauthorized materials include, among others, mobile phones, lecture notes and any other written material.

Much as I am sure none of you would knowingly indulge in such malpractice, let me sound a note of caution. The University of Ghana will not hesitate to impose the highest sanctions on students whose actions bring the University into disrepute.

Keep in mind that the University's reputation has been built through hard work and dedication over the past 62 years, and the Management of the University shall not allow the nefarious activities of a handful of students to bring down the hard won reputation of this great institution.

INDISCIPLINE

As I earlier indicated in my address, ladies and gentlemen, quality education cannot be attained in the University if the institutional participants are not disciplined. I would thus like to spend some time to address the matriculants on the need for students to conduct themselves in a disciplined manner while pursuing their respective programmes in the University.

My dear matriculants, we live in a civilized society and civility must reflect in all our actions. However, we continue to witness undue acts of indiscipline each year on the part of students. The recent acts of indiscipline during the Students' Representative Council (SRC) elections attest to the growing levels of indiscipline in the University. In addition, some students have in recent times attempted to hide behind certain provisions in the national constitution to misbehave, forgetting that the same constitution states that their 'fundamental human rights and freedoms are subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and the public interest'. Clearly, the freedoms are not unfettered.

As adults, you know the difference between right and wrong, and you can also distinguish between good and evil. You know that it is totally unacceptable for anyone to incite people to violence, irrespective of the reasons. Moreover, you are aware that it is against the rules of civilized society for people to go on the rampage and destroy property as well as cause injury. I would thus urge you to

stay away from such acts.

The University is governed by rules and regulations, and there are procedures in the University for engaging in various activities. I urge all students to read the regulations and to follow the procedures accordingly. I can assure you that they are student-friendly. Just obey them and your days on this campus shall be happy and fruitful.

Other acts that you must guard against include the practice of occultism, the peddling or usage of narcotic drugs, as well as bed selling.

The practice of occultism has been observed on university campuses in Ghana, and some fresh students may be pressured to or may willingly join some of the cults. Students are cautioned that their involvement in such practices may not only flout University regulations, but might have unpleasant consequences on their lives in general.

You are to note that the peddling and use of narcotic and restricted drugs such as heroin, cocaine and marijuana are prohibited in this University. Students caught using or dealing in such drugs may be prosecuted and sentenced to several years imprisonment if convicted by a court of law. You are advised strongly to stay away from drugs.

CONCLUSION

Before concluding the address, my dear matriculants, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that your primary aim for coming to this University is to go through the prescribed academic programmes and to graduate with flying colours. I urge you to channel your energies in that direction. Always remember that you were admitted to the University as an individual, and that you would graduate as an individual. You are therefore entirely responsible for your actions and the decisions you make.

On behalf of the University Council, Members of Convocation and on my own behalf, I wish to congratulate you on your admission to the University of Ghana. I would like to assure you that the Management and Staff of the University will play their respective roles to make your life in the University very pleasant and fruitful.

Thank you all, and God bless you.

EXPECTATIONS OF UNIVERSITY LIFE (CLASS OF 2010/2011) BY ABIGAIL BEDUWAA MENSAH

Vice-Chancellor,
Pro-Vice-Chancellors,
Registrar,
Provosts,
Deans,
Directors and other Officers of the University,
Niimeɪ, Naameɪ,
Distinguished Special Guests,
Our dear Parents,
Fellow Students,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deem it a great honor to be called upon to address this august gathering on behalf of my colleague students.

At the threshold of another academic year, we the young ones, the nation's hope and glory are here trying to find our feet. We have come to the hillside to fetch knowledge coupled with several expectations and responsibilities. The desire to become future leaders did not happen suddenly, but by dint of hard work and tactical discipline. The famous adage goes “To whom much is given, much is expected” and as we expect much we must also be prepared to contribute our own quota to the advancement of the nation at large and towards making this University a world class one.

My colleagues will agree with me that our anticipation had been heightened from the moment of applying to this prestigious university to the moment we set foot on this campus as freshers. Having heard a lot, I was expecting my first year in the university to be a continuation of my care-free days only to find out quite the opposite on arrival in the university. We are first of all very privileged to be the first batch to start this new four year academic programme. We believe the university took into serious consideration our academic work to draw out this new programme. We sincerely hope that as time goes on the university will make it much more easier for us.

The University of Ghana is held in high esteem by the academic fraternity worldwide and my colleagues and I came here with our own expectations as to

what we were likely to come across in this academic community. These expectations included high standards of accommodation, comfortable lecture halls, communication and information flow at its very best, modernized dining areas and the like. Upon arrival, we were disappointed that not all our fantasies were actually a reality; some still pose a challenge to be achieved.

We strongly believe that this university is faced by series of problems but we must not sit and throw our arms in the air and resign ourselves to our fate. As young people with discerning minds, we must play our part to initiate better strategies to help curb these numerous challenges we are faced with.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, the university in its quest to keep abreast with the technological advancement in the world, managed to introduce online application and registration in place of hardcopy forms which were previously used. This online process aided in easy application and registration of courses, reduced long queuing, stress and saved considerable amount of time associated with university application and registration. To the authorities, we say thank you very much and more grease to your elbows.

Taking a walk around campus, you will notice that there are hedges, lawns and trees planted at vantage points. These however are not in the best of shape and I entreat the authorities to find ways and means of sustaining and enhancing them to create a more breathtaking and serene environment which will go a long way to boost our academic work. We sincerely hope such work will also be extended to other surrounding areas. I entreat my fellow colleagues to help keep a clean environment to make it worth living in for us all.

The issue of transportation leaves a lot to be desired. Taking into consideration a student who has two consecutive lectures and ten minutes to move from the New N-Block to the Central Cafeteria, for example, the provision of additional shuttles and other transportation facilities will make movement between lecture halls far easier. I therefore implore the university authorities and other stakeholders to provide more transportation facilities to help ease movement around campus.

We yearn to meet the standards of universities all over the world. Time is of essence in all spheres of planning. However, if issues of water shortages interrupt our busy schedules, then our craving to catch up with the outside world would be a serious hurdle to surmount. We believe difficult situations make us

tougher but I still plead with the authorities to help solve this problem by providing us with a regular supply of water.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the issue of accommodation, I have realized, is very pertinent and crucial. Though the current accommodation policy is freshers first, some of my colleagues were stranded on the reporting date. I can only hope and pray that our authorities will embark on a massive decongestion exercise in the various halls so that by the time we complete our studies here, the number of students in a room would be reduced to at most two.

We realize that as the first batch of students under the new four year system, a lot is expected of us. We feel privileged that such a grand and laudable change in the academic work of the University starts with our batch. My colleagues would bear with me that, though our marking scheme has been raised, we are actually prepared for the challenge, and I can assure you that we will do our part to guarantee the success of the new programme. Our only plea is that we get a conducive atmosphere to study, that is to say, security measures must be tightened in order to prevent theft in and around our various rooms. We also pray that our various halls of residence would have generators to make up for power outages. Current and up to date reading materials should be made available to use at the various libraries in the halls and the Balme Library.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, we will do our best to study hard to gain education which will help us contribute to the socio-economic development of our dear nation Ghana. It is our fervent hope that as we embark on this journey, the university authorities will do all in their power to make our experience less stressful and more enjoyable. The matriculation class of 2010 hereby pledges to obey the rules and regulations of the University of Ghana, and we will do all in our power to contribute towards the growth and development of the university.

The collective hard work and diligence of us all will go a long way to solving our challenges. On this note, I will conclude by wishing us all a fruitful stay on the University of Ghana campus.

Long live the Matriculation Class of 2010
Long live University of Ghana
Long live Ghana
And may God bless us all.
Thank you.

