UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

SPEECH BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI, DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE POSTGRADUATE ACADEMIC TRACKING INFORMATION SYSTEM

ON MAY 25, 2015
Members of the UMB,

The Board members of the BPS,

The Steering Committee,

The Technical Committee,

Ladies and gentlemen

Over the years the number of postgraduate students in the University has grown to unprecedented levels, from a paltry 500 at the time of inception of the BPS in 1985 to the current population of over 14,000 postgraduate students.
This momentous growth has come with numerous challenges and it is for this reason that the University Management, in consultation with the Board identified the need to develop and implement a comprehensive academic tracking system for postgraduate students. This entails the tracking of a student’s progress from the point of admission to graduation through the postgraduate academic tracking information system.

This system is one of the innovations the University has committed itself to implement by June 30th 2015 in its Performance Contract for 2014/2015.

It is also in the Performance Contract of the Board of Postgraduate Studies and ICT.
Today, I am happy to note that the development of the system is now complete and ready for roll out as had been set out in the Performance Contract schedule and system development workplan.

The key objectives of this system are:

- to maintain an accurate and easily retrievable record of the progress of each postgraduate student;
- to keep track of the students’ contact with their supervisors through easily retrievable records of submitted progress reports;
- to track and accurately determine the expiry date of the registration period for each postgraduate student;
• to accurately compute and determine the fees to be charged for extension of registration;
• to track and flag in the system those who have graduated or exited from the University; and finally,
• to provide management with reports to aid in continuous process improvement.

The development of the project started on 1st October 2014, after the composition of the Steering and Technical teams and followed the normal process of software development life cycle.

The development of the system was finally completed on 15th May 2015 and was reviewed by the Steering Team and found to meet the expectations of the user unit i.e. BPS.
With the development of this tracking system it will now be possible to track a student from the time of enrolment to completion and at the click of a button be able to retrieve the student’s progress status.

Students, supervisors and Schools will also be able to interact with BPS and with each other through the system as all the processes have been automated and done online. Communication through email and short messaging service will now be possible through the system to ensure effective communication with the relevant parties.
It will now be possible for management to obtain accurate decision making reports on the various parameters concerning student progress from enrolment to completion.

The University Management therefore expects Deans and Directors and the Director, BPS to sensitize supervisors to immediately start using the system.

At this point I wish on behalf of Management to congratulate the Steering and Technical teams for this achievement.
With those remarks, I am delighted to declare the Postgraduate Academic Tracking Information System officially launched.

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