Deputy Vice-Chancellor (AA)

Principals of Colleges

Dean, Faculty of Arts

Trainers

Academic Staff, Departments of History & Archeology and philosophy & Religious Studies,

Ladies and Gentlemen
I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to this three-day training on pedagogy. This is part of the training programme that began in the year 2005 which will continue until all our staff are trained.

The main objective of this training is to improve your teaching skills in imparting knowledge to your students. It is common knowledge that most university lecturers, though excellent scholars in every right, are not trained in teaching. However, since we are engaged in the formal lecturing of our
students, it is important that we undergo training in order to improve the quality of our service to our clients.

This training session shall focus on many pedagogical aspects, some rather mundane like maintaining eye contact while in class. More importantly, however, it will focus on the examination process – how to set examinations, administer questions, marking schemes, scoring and the examination results.
You are the fourth cohort in this training after the Departments of Economics, History & Political Science and Public Administration, Geography, Literature successfully underwent a similar process sometime back. I hope that you will employ the knowledge and skills acquired while discharging your duties.

Pedagogical training is a worldwide practice in many Universities especially in the developed countries. At the University of Nairobi, the first training was held in 1991 targeting staff from the College of
Education and External Studies. This training was jointly sponsored by the Germany Organizations (GTZ & DSE). Moi University benefited more by extending the training to most of its staff.

In the United States, for instance, if you are involved in teaching, certification is required every five years to prove a continuous update of skills. Unlike our local institutions which still employ staff on permanent and pensionable terms, academic staff in America are hired on contract renewable upon production of evidence of certification. Our
challenge, therefore, is to update our training so that we can remain relevant in an increasingly challenging environment.

Our efforts to train academic staff are constrained by a number of factors including lack of trainers. This notwithstanding, there is need to develop learning materials and make training an on-going process to cater for new members of staff. It is my hope that the University will be able to set up a pedagogical centre to offer training to other institutions of higher learning. I challenge the School of Education to
develop this proposal for consideration by the University Management Board.

In concluding, I wish to assure you that the University will continue training academic staff in an endeavour to realize our dream of becoming one of the best institutions of higher learning in the region.

With those few remarks, I now declare this training officially open.

Thank You