UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M. F. MBITHI, VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DURING CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AND DEANS/DIRECTORS ON ROLES OF THE FACULTIES/SCHOOLS/INSTITUTES AND CENTRES IN THE SUCCESS OF POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES HELD ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019 AT 7.30 A.M. AT THE VIP LOUNGE 5TH FLOOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI TOWERS
The Deputy Vice Chancellors

The Director - Graduate School

The Deputy Directors- Graduate School

The Deans and Directors

The members of Graduate School

Ladies and Gentlemen
I am pleased to officiate this important consultative meeting organized by the Graduate School Board that aims at ensuring the success of our graduate programmes.

I would like to commend Deans and Directors for their efforts together with the Graduate School, for producing the highest number (154) of PhDs in the history of the University in the 2017/2018 Academic year.
From the onset, I wish to observe that the future of our University, bearing in mind the emerging dynamics in the higher education sector lies with the Graduate programmes. I foresee the University in becoming more a research institution in future! For us to achieve that, all Units will be required to undertake the admission of graduate students with more efficiency, and within the required times lines as per our service charter, this will improve the ratio of graduate students from the current
20% to the envisaged 25% and above within the current five-year strategic plan period.

The University of Nairobi being the leading University both locally and within the region has to be in the forefront in ensuring the quality of teaching and examination of all graduate programmes are sustained and continuously improved to match the global standards.
The University of Nairobi will endeavour to position itself as a strong research institution based on research mainly carried out by our postgraduate students. I am therefore pleased to note that the University has fully implemented the CUE requirement to have all PhD students publish at least two publications from their research work before completion of their studies.
To support this noble requirement, I urge all Units to persuade students and staff to publish the articles in high impact Journals, this will further greatly improve the University’s webometric rankings.

In order to efficiently manage the Thesis examination process, Deans/ Directors are called upon to ensure that the examination process is done as per the regulations and that the credibility of each stage is
above board. The processing of consolidated reports should be submitted to Graduate School within two (2) weeks from the date of defense, and that the reports are done with clarity capturing recommendations of the three examiners, Board of Examination discussion and a clear list of corrections that must be owned by all members of the Board of Examiners.
I am informed that some of the appointed members of the examination Board do not turn up for examination and a lot of time is wasted trying to look for their replacement. Oral examination of thesis and projects is an examination process and every appointed member must attend.

Due to low rate of completion, the University four years ago, committed resources and came up with the
Postgraduate Tracking System (PGTS). This tool was aimed at automating the supervision process for ease of management and follow-up of individual student progress at the research stage. However, the uptake of this online system has been slow and disappointing.
All Units must adopt the use of this system to enhance efficiency in the supervision process, progress and tracking the completion rate. Each Dean/Director will be required to ensure that their respective units fully adopt this system without further delay.

The Management has set an expected target of two hundred (200) Ph.Ds in the 2018/2019 Academic year.
By 2023, the University hopes to be graduating an average of five hundred (500) PhDs.

I take this chance to thank the Graduate School Board for organizing this workshop and hope that such consultative meetings will be held regularly to enable teaching Units and especially newly appointed Deans and Directors acquire the knowledge of the various
processes relating to the management of the Graduate programmes.

This consultative meeting therefore will go a long way in enhancing the quality of delivery of programmes and further improve the working relationship and interaction between the Graduate School and the Teaching Units.
This meeting is expected to address operational and general management issues relating to Graduate Studies. I would like to thank the Graduate School Board for organizing this meeting. I hope you will come up with good recommendations for short term and long term implementation.
With these few remarks, I wish you a fruitful discussion in today’s, consultative meeting.

PETER M.F MBITHI, PhD, EBS
VICE-CHANCELLOR
AND
PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY