UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

WELCOMING REMARKS BY PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI

VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, DURING
SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP FOR THE DEANS,
DIRECTORS AND CHAIRMEN OF THE
FACULTY/SCHOOL/INSTITUTE/CENTER

POSTGRADUATE COMMITTEES HELD ON MAY 10,
2017 AT THE CENTRAL CATERING UNIT AT 8.30 A.M
Deputy Vice Chancellor (RPE)

Director, Graduate School

Deputy Directors

Workshop Facilitators

Ladies and Gentlemen
I take this opportunity to welcome all of you to this very important workshop, which is designed to tackle various issues relating to the operation of the Graduate School.

As you are aware, the Graduate School is one of the newest Units of the University. The Graduate School is mandated to do the following:

a) Formulation and regular review of the policy framework for graduate studies to ensure effective and harmonious coordination among the internal and external key role players.
b) In close liaison with the key academic units, coordination of graduate syllabi and regulations, admission of graduate students, coordination of supervision of graduate students; and processing of graduate theses, research projects and dissertations

c) Sourcing and administration of graduate scholarships and research grants

d) Ensuring general welfare and discipline of graduate students.

In carrying out the above mandate, the Graduate School works very closely with the Deans and Directors
of Faculties/Schools/ Institutes and Centres. For example, with regard to admissions, the Deans and Directors indicate the academic programmes to be offered in each academic year and semester and they also do the short listing of the applicants, in the first instance, and forward their recommendations to the Graduate School for admission. Once the graduate students are admitted, the Deans and Directors ensure that the students are taught and examined at the end of each semester, and those who successfully complete their coursework are allocated supervisors and their thesis / research projects are examined on time.
But why are we holding this workshop?
In the recent past, there have been a number of developments that touch on the mandate of the Graduate School and the roles of Deans and Directors of Faculties/Schools/Institutes/Centres. In particular, in 2015, the Commission for University Education (CUE) issued *Standards, Regulations and Guidelines* 2014 to be implemented and observed by all universities in Kenya. Early this year, the Commission for University Education (CUE) in its audit report for our university raised a number of issues on admissions,
examination and supervision and the number of postgraduate students.

The Graduate School has been working on some of these issues. For instance, the Graduate School has revised the Postgraduate Regulations to incorporate the CUE recommendations. Since the Deans and Directors are key players in those processes (admissions, supervision, examination), there is need to sensitize them on the issues, their role in resolving them and to apprise them on the progress made to
address them. This is the main purpose of this workshop.

Secondly, the Graduate School and CBPS have been piloting the Graduate Student Progress Tracking System since the beginning of this year. Once the pilot is over, the system will be rolled out to all the colleges. Some of the Deans and Directors have been trained on the system and others, especially the new ones are yet to be trained on it. We want to share with all the Deans and Directors the progress and the challenges of the pilot.
Thirdly we want to share with the Deans and Directors the revised Postgraduate Regulations. The Board of the Graduate School has already approved the regulations.

Finally, we want to remind the Deans and Directors of their role in enforcing research ethics and integrity among their respective staff and graduate students.

As indicated in the attached workshop program, we intend to cover all the above issues in the half day interactive workshop. The facilitators are the staff of
the Graduate School and some of the members of the former Board of the BPS.

With those few remarks, it is my pleasant duty to declare this workshop officially open.

PETER M.F MBITHI, PhD, EBS
VICE-CHANCELLOR

AND

PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY