

*Prof. Peter Mbat*

# One year in Office.



## SMU Chair of Council Ms. Maria Rambauli sets a firm tone on the future of SMU

The University Council held its annual workshop from the 15th – 16th September at the Saint George Conference Centre in Pretoria. In attendance were both external and internal Council members, and Deans of Schools. In her welcome address, the Chairperson of Council Ms. Maria Rambauli acknowledged that the SMU 2021 – 2025 strategic plan clearly articulates a path to excellence for SMU – a university with incredible potential to be a leading health sciences university due to its unique programmes and location.

She further confirmed that the role of Council was to ensure that there is an appropriate and effective management to deliver on the academic project and, that the administrative and support functions are optimal.

She stated that the University Council will support the Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbat to decisively tackle impediments to the progress of the University and to ensure that values of discipline and respect are upheld by both staff and students.

Council delegated to the Vice Chancellor the authority to drive change at both the academic and operations level, and to introduce a strong culture of consequence management for staff and students that go against the rules and regulations of the university. Key issues that Council deliberated on included:

- i) SMU Business model and the path to sustainability
- ii) Building of a compact between various university stakeholders (Council/Management/Labour/SRC)
- iii) Reflecting on both the root cause analysis and culture survey reports and determine the most appropriate way that Council must support the Vice Chancellor in constructing an enabling environment in which excellence can thrive.
- iv) Improving SMU staff and student experience
- v) SMU Built Environment
- vi) Affirming the centrality of the academic project
- vii) SMU protest culture: what drives it and how this must be managed: – the role of Council, Management, Labour and Student.

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