



SMU Council celebrates achievements in song and dance

The SMU Council meeting of the 25 November 2022 ended on a celebratory note, as members reflected on the Council achievements at the gala dinner on the same day. In her opening address, the Chairperson of Council, Ms. Maria Rambauli indicated that it took the commitment of all members of Council to achieve the University's key milestones. She further encouraged members to "keep moving" to propel SMU to even greater heights.

Amongst others, Council noted the following achievements:

- The University has over 85 accredited academic programmes on offer from undergraduate to postgraduate study levels. Plans are also afoot to increase the number of qualifications aligned to the comprehensive character of the University to over 100 by end of 2024. This will enable the University, over time, to offer Higher Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Bachelors, Postgraduate Diplomas, Honours, Masters and Doctoral degrees in a range of disciplines aligned to both Health Sciences and Science and Technology fields.
- Although a Health Sciences focussed institution, the University also boasts one (1) DST/NRF funded Chair and ten (10) National Research Foundation rated researchers, covering a range of disciplines offered at the University.
- In terms of student profile, the University has enrolled over 6600 students in 2022, from a low base of just over 4000 students in 2015. The new business model approved by the Council and supported by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) will see the total number

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of enrolled students increasing significantly to over 13 500 by 2035. This will ensure that the University financially viable.

- In order to improve the governance and administration of the University, the Council of the University has approved for implementation over fifty (50) new policies, procedures and protocols since the establishment of the University in 2015. The approval of these policies, procedures and protocols, which cover administration functions, academic governance and management and operations, has laid a solid foundation for effective institutional governance and administration of the University.
- The 2000-bed student residence, the construction of which began in 2021, will address the student accommodation shortage on campus, and will certainly help the University to defray some of the costs incurred on leased student accommodation in the Pretoria CBD and other places, away from the main campus.
- Renovation of the student and staff cafeteria, the construction of which began in 2021 has now been completed – providing the much-needed student food services.
- Commercialisation Strategy, with a view to increasing the

University's third-stream income, and ensuring that SMU land is leveraged appropriately to generate additional income for the University and also used as equity in Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) arrangements for the benefit of the University.

- The infrastructure maintenance strategy and plan aimed at preserving the diverse infrastructure of the university.
- The 800-bed student residence, the funding for which was ultimately approved by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation. Construction will commence in 2023, once all the geo-technical reports have been finalised and approved by Management.
- Library Upgrade Project, the funding for which was eventually approved by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, and the project will commence in 2023.
- 2021 – 2025 Strategic Plan of the University, which lays a solid road map for the revitalisation of both the academic project and operations side of the university enterprise. A mid-term review of the strategic plan by the Council will take place in May/June 2023.
- Actual graduate headcount increased from 1186 in 2019 to

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1337 in 2020, a remarkable increase by 12.7%, and exceeding the 2020 target by 12%. The undergraduate degree credit success rate increased from 86.7% in 2019 to 95.7% in 2020 against the set target of 86%. The total degree credit success rate was 84.9% against a target of 76%.

- Of the total permanent instructional/research staff, (47.4%) hold a master's qualification and (20.4%) have a doctorate as highest qualification, indicating an increase by 6.6% for instructional/research staff with doctoral degree qualification. Plans are afoot to increase the number of academic employees holding a Doctoral degree significantly in the coming period.
- Number of research publication output units increased from 106.7 in 2019 to 174.6 in 2020, translating to an increase by 63.6% and exceeding the 2020 target by 35%. The number of research master's units decreased from 66 in 2019 to 54.5 in 2020 with research doctoral units increasing from 15 in 2019 to 36 in 2020, a remarkable increase by 140%. In total, research output units increased from 192.2 in 2019 to 265.05 in 2020, an increase by 37.9%.
- SMU's Department of General Surgery is the first in South Africa to make use of the Hot Axios Stent Technique (HAST) to relieve a patient suffering from jaundice, due to an obstruction in his bile duct. Although this technique has been in use for several years overseas, it was used for the first time to relieve bile duct obstruction in both the private and public sectors, in South Africa.
- **Paediatric Oncology Unit** received Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) accreditation. The Dr George Mkhari Academic Hospital (DGHAH) and SMU were accredited by the HPCSA with a subspecialty training unit of paediatric oncology. The unit hopes to offer radiotherapy services and also conduct a lot of research in the future.
- The university made history when it broke into uniRanks's top 200 popular and recognized institutions of higher learning in Africa. SMU is ranked number 184 out of about 1300 institutions on the African continent.
- Following an extensive audit of its network infrastructure, the university has embarked on an ambitious forklift upgrade of the entire ICT network and infrastructure, which would guide its future information and technology roll-out. This major investment would modernize and secure our network, and server and provide a new fibre-optic cable infrastructure. This will provide adequate capacity and resilience where possible, and sufficient connectivity on campus, both wired and for pervasive Wi-Fi to allow students and staff to work flexibly on a variety of devices.

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- **SMU Technology Transfer Office** - As part of the efforts to create awareness, encourage and support innovation and an entrepreneurship culture, the Research and Innovation Directorate (RID) launched the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) in July 2022 to provide a structured support to all staff and students who may be having intellectual property (IP) that need to be protected (patent) and later be taken to the market (commercialized).
- **Review of SMU Statute** - On 22 July 2022 the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (“Minister”) approved the amended Institutional Statute of the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, 2022 (“amended Statute”). The Minister's approval of the amended Statute was a culmination of a thorough review of the previous Institutional Statute of the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, 2016 (“previous Statute”), which review was intended to improve and strengthen the institutional governance of the University.
- Issues related to student life and experiences have now been elevated to be overseen by the Council, through the establishment of Student Affairs Committee of Council. In this regard, the Council is able to have a feel of the challenges faced by students, and the extent to which Management's plans and strategies are adequate enough to address the challenges.
- Third stream income strategy was also approved in 2021, to bolster University's efforts to grow its revenue base, and by extension improve its balance sheet. The implementation of the strategy is going to be a game-changer for the University as more resources will be generated outside state appropriations and subsidy. Amongst others, this strategy involves engagements with SMU alumni.
- The University has received unmodified audit opinion in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 financial years; a testimony that its financial position is sound, and it remains a going concern.

All of these, and many more unmentioned, were achieved, with the leadership and oversight provided by the Council. Against this background, and although the challenges still remain, the University remains deeply indebted to the governance and stewardship role played by the Council over the last eight (8) years. The contribution made by each of the Council members during this period is hereby recognised. The Chairperson of Council, Deputy Chairperson of Council, the Chairpersons of Committees and ordinary members of Council is hereby acknowledged. You have both collectively and separately contributed to the success of SMU, and you have put it on a path to rejuvenate and revitalise the academic project of the University – because SMU exists to serve the greater good of society, by producing graduates who will be able to passionately serve the community.

To cap the celebratory note of this event, Members of Council were awarded trophies and certificates of recognition for their commitment to the work of the University. 🔍

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S Excellence Awards 2022

Teaching, Learning, Research & Innovation

Winners of the VC Excellence Awards in the 3 categories:

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AWARDS 2022

CATEGORY	NAME	POSITION	CURRENT VALUE OF THE AWARD*
1. Best Established Researcher in the School • School of Science and Technology • School of Health Care Sciences • School of Pharmacy	Dr M. Aphane	First prize Platinum	R10 000.00
	Prof KE Mokwena	First prize Platinum	R10 000.00
	Prof JC Meyer	First prize Platinum	R10 000.00
2. Best Clinician	Prof I Govender	First Prize Platinum	R20 000.00
3. Best Female Researcher	Prof KE Mokwena	Gold	R10 000.00
4. The best Overall Postgraduate Research supervisor	Awaiting Finalization	Platinum	R10 000.00
5. Best Overall Established Researcher in the University	Prof KE Mokwena		R50 000.00

SMU NRF RATED RESEARCHERS AND SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCH CHAIR INITIATIVE (SARCHI)

NAME	FIELD OF SPECIALIZATION	RATING
1. Prof CL Obi	Medical Bacteriology	C
2. Prof LM Seheri	Diarrheal pathogens; Human Gut Microbiome	C
3. Prof AC Oettlé	Physical anthropology	C
4. Prof T Matsha-Erasmus	Cardiometabolic diseases	C
5. Prof MZ Koto	Minimal access surgery; General surgery	C
6. Prof H Meyer	Rational use of medicines; Antimicrobial stewardship;	C
7. Prof KE Mokwena	vaccines and Immunization Services NRF SARChI Chair: Substance Abuse and Mental Health	



TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS WINNERS

NAME & SURNAME	DEPARTMENT	SCHOOL	PRIZE
CATEGORY: Emerging Dr Hilde Miniggio	Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology; Oral Microbiology	Oral Health Sciences	R20 000
CATEGORY: Seasoned Ms Veena Abrahams	Pharmaceutical Sciences	Pharmacy	R30 000

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH				
Microbiological Pathology	Musyoki AM	Covid-19 Vaccination and Sero-Prevalence Status of members of the SMU-DGMAH Community.	First Prize	R7,000.00
Physiotherapy	Maleka D	Barriers and Facilitators of using outcome measures in Stroke Rehabilitation in South Africa.	Second Prize	R3,500.00
Microbiological Pathology	Nteta ME	The incidence, risk factors and Causative Pathogens of Nosocomial infections in a Multidisciplinary Intensive Care Unit at a large Tertiary Hospital in Central South Africa.	Third Prize	R3,000.00
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH				
Chemistry and Chemical Technology	Mabe CJ	Quality Analysis of Borehole Water from selected Villages at Ga-Matlala area in the Limpopo Province of South Africa.	First Prize	R5,000.00
Anatomy and Histology	Van der Walt S	Dimensions of the Orbital and Periorbital Regions for the use in Forensic Facial Approximations of South Africans.	Second Prize	R3,000.00
Microbiology	Mulaudzi S	Microbial Contamination of mobile phones carried by Neonatal Unit and Laboratory Staff at a Public Hospital in Gauteng Province	Third Prize	R2,000.00

POSTERS PRESENTATIONS

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH				
Pharmaceutical Sciences	Matlola T	Antimicrobial and phytochemical properties of Amaranthus Hibridus leaf extracts.	First Prize	R5,000.00
Occupational Therapy	Gumede NL	An Exploration of Occupational Therapy Practices for children with Cerebral Palsy accessing Public Healthcare settings in Gauteng, South Africa.	Second Prize	R3,000.00
Hand and Microsurgery	Mathole ON	The impact of the Basic Microsurgical Skill Training within the various Medical Disciplines in South Africa.	Third Prize	R2,000.00





Introducing the SMU Alumni Relations Office



The main objective of the Alumni Relations Office is to establish and maintain lifelong relationships between the University and its graduates.

The office strives to broaden and strengthen constant communication with graduates via the establishment of Alumni Database. The office affords Alumni Association Members to network and re-connect with each other through Alumni chapters and events such as the Golf Day, Class Reunions, etc. The office also plays a fundamental role in supporting students from previously disadvantaged backgrounds through donations and sponsorship.

SMU Alumni objectives are to create database of alumni to support academic and research enterprise. To establish support for third-stream income through alumni's influence and to impart knowledge, make schools and academic departments aware of the value of engaging with alumni, community and private organizations.

To find out more about the office and how you can be in touch with your alma mater, please contact the following people:

- Mr Sbusiso Gwala: sbusiso.gwala@smu.ac.za
- Dr Lusani Netshitomboni: lusani.netshitomboni@smu.ac.za

SMU/Medunsa Alumni Class of 1992 Reunite in Durban

The class of 1992 converged in Durban recently to celebrate 30 years of being together. Their activities included a 3km walk and a gala dinner where they were addressed by SMU Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Mbatjwa.





SMU staff complete a course in Strategy Execution at Wits Business School

Another cohort of SMU staff recently completed a course on strategy execution from the Wits Business School (WBS) after months of toiling. The group made up of academics and support staff commenced with the course from end of March to October 2022. They were divided into different syndicates and conducted research around a variety of key focus areas at SMU such as branding, mentorship, security services and third stream income. Upon completion of the research work in the different areas, they subsequently presented their work before a panel of judges at the WBS.

Team Smarties comprising of Prof Vanessa Moodley, Dr Muzi Tshabalala, Prof Perpetua Modjadji, Ms Mmabatho Makamedi and Mr Phaladi Seakgwe clinched the coveted award for overall best group for the class of 2022.

The course content covered the following areas amongst others:

- The Generative Economy
- Digital Literacy
- Governance and Ethics
- Leading Change
- Board Leadership
- Culture and Performance
- Corporate and Business Strategy
- Business Model Innovation
- Value Proposition Design
- The 4th Industrial Revolution

The group has thanked SMU for the opportunity and support provided to pursue such a very critical course which will enable them to play a role in the transformation of the University and help it realize its strategic objectives.



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A Festive Message

From the Vice Chancellor,
Prof. Peter Mbat

Throughout the year you worked tirelessly; hence I want to say this is the break that you all deserve. Trust me; SMU is in good health because of your continuous work and support. Although I am going to miss coming to the office every day, and meeting all of you during my usual campus walks, I wish to see you all back with smiling faces, stories of vacation and your energy fully restored.

Make every moment count and enjoy the holidays. I hope you will get the time to do and enjoy all those things that you never really got to do during the year. My wish is that you also get to spend quality time with those you love, creating memories and living your lives to the fullest.

Whatever you plan to do, and wherever you plan to be,
*I wish each one of you a happy
and safe holiday season!*

SMU Harambee Annual Fund Challenge

*In the Spirit of Harambee, Ubuntu and Oneness,
we pledge to pull together to raise a minimum
of One Million Rands for SMU's needy students.*



WAYS TO GIVE

1. Payroll donations
2. Online donations:
<https://smu.devman.co.za/devman/online/qiving/>

3. Pay Scan – Zapper
4. SMU banking details:

Ref - Standard bank
Acc - 070754128
Branch code - 020909
Q013 - Name Surname



OUR MISSION

SMU is to deliver a high level cadre of health care professionals trained by experts from the Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Oral Health Sciences, Health Care Sciences and, Science and Technology.

We have a large number of brilliant students but lack sufficient resourcing to finance their various needs to fully experience a dignified university student life.

It is against this background that SMU has initiated the **SMU HARAMBEE ANNUAL FUND CHALLENGE** to raise funds to support our needy students.

THE NEED

Join our Vice Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbatia and SMU in raising funds for a bursary program designed to assist academically qualified but financially disadvantaged students. Additionally, the initiative intends to donate to the university's Hands of Compassion food security project, which delivers meals to underprivileged students on campus.

THE CHALLENGE

Prof. Mbatia encourages students, staff, academics and alumni to participate in a structured giving program. We are called to make a minimum monthly contribution of R10 for students, R100 for staff, and R200 for alumni. In response, Prof has given a lead donation of R10,000 and invites SMU executives to donate as well.