

Chancellor College Bulletin



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Dr. Ken Lipenga Jr (Chief Editor),
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EDITORIAL: WINDING UP THE SEMESTER

What you have before you is the second edition of the Chancellor College Bulletin. As researchers, we know that there are few things more pleasing than for a project to move from the pilot phase into the main stages of implementation. If the pilot phase is successful, chances are that more funds will follow, which makes for a very happy researcher.

This is an analogy meant to capture the way the editorial team feels about the publication of this issue, which would not have been possible without feedback in various forms from our readership.

In the last edition, we made a bit of noise about how our administration had been joined by one Ashanie Gawa. As fate turns out, Mr Gawa has been employed as Deputy University Registrar. So much as we congratulate

him on this development, we also know that once again we have a gap that needs to be filled.

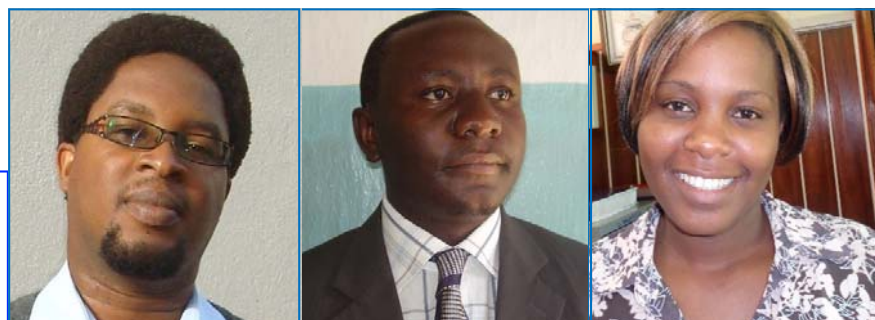
One of the biggest events that have coincided with the ending of the semester is the launch of the Chancellor College Strategic Plan, a document meant to guide our activities up until 2018. This is a document that we must all be proud of and, more significantly, must commit ourselves to its implementation. As the college principal observed, strategic plans have an unfortunate habit of dying right at their launch.

As the semester comes to a close, many are breathing a sigh of relief for the welcome respite in teaching duties. However, we all know that these teaching duties are soon to be replaced by three weeks of marking. Let us dedicate ourselves to this important exercise so that we are able to meet all

assessment deadlines.

Fortunately, the administration has extended a hand of assistance offering free lunch and snacks to departments who would want to engage in group marking sessions on campus. If adopted, this should see most departments completing their marking and assessment in good time.

Speaking of departmental duties, the past two months have seen Heads and Deans, and their deputies, drilled in leadership skills at the lake. These honourable men and women spent the better part of a week not basking in the sun or feasting on *chambo*, but rather honing their headship skills, to ensure that they are effective drivers of the college sections they represent. We should be seeing the fruits of this training soon, if we have not already.



ADMINISTRATION

Finance Ministry holds pre-budget consultations at Chancellor College

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development conducted a pre-budget consultative meeting for the Eastern region at Chancellor College in the Little Theater on 30 March, 2015. The main presenter was the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development Hon. Dr. Goodall Gondwe. Participants included, academic members, support staff, students, civil societies within the region and heads of Government Departments. Brief presentations on behalf of the Academic Union, Students Union and the Support Staff were made by Dr. Mangani Katundu,

Mr. Frank Chidampamba and Mr. Goodson Witika respectively. General issues were raised in the meeting and for the College, in particular. Participants requested Government to consider increasing funding to the University for provision of better services in human capacity development. The college lamented on such problems as lack of teaching space due to the increased student numbers, lack of accommodation facilities for students, limited infrastructure such as desks, equipment, books and chemicals. While promising continued Government support to the University, the

minister also mentioned such problems as dwindling support from bilateral donors, repayment of arrears (to individuals and organizations) accumulated over the years by Government, floods which devastated some parts of the country

and the dry spell that is anticipated to affect the 2015 yield; making it difficult in prioritization of budget votes in this year's budget. The Ministry usually conducts such consultative exercises before drafting the national budget.



Participants at the pre-budget consultation meeting, posing for a photo shoot outside the Great Hall.

ADMINISTRATION

Leadership training sessions held at Mangochi

As a way of endeavoring to improve the quality of staff in leadership positions, the College Administration organized orientation for newly elected leaders in faculties, departments and Centres. The college has since held two training sessions—one for Heads, Deans and Directors from 10th to 13th March 2015, and one for Deputy Deans and Heads from 8th April to 10th April, 2015.

In the first session, the Guest of Honor was the Vice Chancellor, Prof. J.K. Saka and the Overall Facilitator was Prof. Lewis Dzimbiri from the Public Administration Studies Department. The Overall objective of the

workshops was to enhance the managerial and leadership competences of Heads and Deans (and their deputies) in order to increase the capacity of Chancellor College to realize its vision and mission.

The program mainly focused on providing an overview on UNIMA Policies and Administrative systems which provides a framework for decision making in governance and financial matters in UNIMA.

There was a variety of presentations made at the workshop, on issues that are of importance for effective leadership. Presenters included

individuals within the University System, such as the University Internal Auditor, Mr. S. Masuso, the Chancellor College ICT Director, Mr. Solomon Dindi and the College Finance Officer, Mr. Peter Nakoma.

However, the sessions were also graced by presenters from outside the college, such as His Honor Mzonde Mvula, Mr. C. Mchenga of DHRMD and Mrs M. Phiri of the Staff Development Institute.



Heads, Deans and Directors in a group pose at the Leadership Training Workshop.

ADMINISTRATION

New promotion criteria creates controversy

The recent call for promotions for staff has been received with mixed reactions. This is to be observed particularly in the promotion for academic staff, which is this year based on revised promotion criteria.

In the report from Senate on the new criteria, it is indicated that they have been developed in order to address perceived weaknesses in the promotion criteria used over the last few years,

including the fact that “teaching responsibilities of individuals are not as emphasized as research”. The new document attempts to address this shortfall, among others.

However, the most glaring novelty about the criteria is the fact that academic achievements are now tied to a point system. An applicant for promotion is supposed to amass a certain number of points, based on publications, innovations, student evaluation,

sourcing of funds, and community outreach, just to mention a few.

A few informal conversations with members of staff revealed that most of them feel that the new criteria display a University Management that desires to stifle the upward progression of its staff.

In reaction to the development, the Chancellor College Academic Staff Union (CCASU), has obtained a court injunction restraining the Council of the University of Malawi from implementing the new promotion criteria.

HUMANITIES

Humanities holds Strategic Planning Workshop

In the immediate wake of the launch of the Chancellor College Strategic Plan, the Faculty of Humanities arranged for a one-day workshop for all its staff on 25th April, 2015. The aim of the workshop, which was facilitated by Prof. Lewis Dzimhiri, was to train academic staff in the development of strategic plans, particularly for their respective departments.

ADMINISTRATION

College undertakes data cleaning exercise

In a bid to minimize problems associated with record keeping and assessment processes, the college undertook a data cleaning exercise which involved cleaning of staff records on the Student Assessment & Registration Information System (SARIS), student annual records and courses taken by each student in various years since the beginning of the GPA system. The exercise was at Hippo View Lodge from 25th February to

2nd March. Cleaning of staff data involved checking active staff in the system, duplicated staff data and data which was missing on SARIS. There were 8,200 entries for the students' annual records and for each entry members checked year of study, end of year results and duplication of grades.

On student courses 113,237 entries were cleaned by checking each entry for the correct year of study the course was taken, correct course type in terms of regular, carry over or repeating course in a particular year that it was taken but also duplication of courses in the system.

Chanco Strategic Plan and MPAM launched in style

The Chancellor College Strategic Plan was on 24th April launched amidst justifiable excitement, to a diverse audience that included college staff, students, alumni, as well as various stakeholders from within and outside the country. The Special Guest at the function was the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Norwegian Embassy, Bjarne Garden.

Speaking at the function, the visibly proud principal, Assoc. Prof. Richard Tambulasi explained that in forming the document, various stakeholders, including staff, students, alumni, and the industry, had been consulted. He also pointed out that the college strategic plan has been designed in consultation with other important documents, including the UNIMA Strategic Plan. As a result, the Chanco Strategic Plan is also informed by the 5 Pillars of the University of

Malawi, which include teaching and learning; research, consultancy and outreach; capacity building; governance and management; and teaching and resource mobilization. The strategic plan also addresses various cross cutting issues such as gender and disability.

During the function, the college also launched the Masters programme in Public Administration and Management, which is partially funded by the University of Oslo.

The launch was spiced by performances by Beni dancers, clad in their recognizable military regalia.



Data cleaning exercise underway at Hippo View Lodge



The guest of honour making his speech (above) and participants during the launch (below)

SCIENCE

Science Faculty meets Stakeholders to develop Actuarial Sciences programme

On 16th April 2015, the Department of Mathematical Sciences held a stakeholders consultation workshop on the newly developed curriculum for BSc in Actuarial Science Programme at Mount Soche Hotel in Blantyre. The workshop was opened by Chancellor College Principal, Assoc. Prof. R. Tambulasi, and was attended by representatives from insurance, financial and academic institutions. These included the Insurance Institute of Malawi (IIM), Nico Life Insurance, United General Insurance (UGI), Reunion Insurance, Prime Insurance, Reserve Bank

of Malawi, National Bank of Malawi, The Malawi Polytechnic, Mzuzu University and Catholic University.

In his opening remarks, the Principal explained that in line with UNIMA strategic plan, the programme was developed in response to the high demand for expertise in Actuarial Science by the insurance and financial industry in Malawi. He then thanked the delegates for responding positively to the invitation. On his part, the president of the Insurance Institute of Malawi, Mr. Kadzongwe thanked the University of Malawi for introducing this programme, which

the insurance industry has been looking forward to, explaining that it will reduce their costs considerably since currently the industry imports experts for any actuarial services. During the workshop, the

department got expert comments and advice on the proposed curriculum, which it will incorporate before presentation to Faculty Board, College Management, APC/ACC, and University Senate for approval.



Delegates to the Actuarial Science stakeholders consultative workshop pose for a group photograph.

EDUCATION

CERT receives vehicle for Child Friendly Education Project

One of the activities currently ongoing at the Centre for Educational Research and Training (CERT) is the Child Friendly Education Project. The project is an initiative to improve

school effectiveness in primary schools in Malawi. It is aligned to the Primary School Improvement Programme (PSIP) implemented by the Ministry of Education.

In a boost to its activities, the project recently received a vehicle from UNICEF, resulting from the successful negotiation by the principal researcher of the project, Associate Professor Dorothy Nampota. The vehicle, registration number 25SC317, is a Toyota Twin cabin pickup, which is the suitable type for reaching some of the remote areas earmarked for implementation of the project.

The project, which was launched in 2012, seeks home grown solutions to

the promotion of child rights and inclusiveness, academic effectiveness, gender equity and equality, school health and safety, and building good school-community linkages. After a successful initial implementation in 14 primary schools in

Machinga district, the project has since expanded to include 10 additional districts. It has also attracted Masters students in the Faculty of Education, who are currently working on the concept of the Child Friendly School in Malawi.



Lead Researcher of the Child Friendly Education Project, Assoc. Prof. Dorothy Nampota



The vehicle donated by UNICEF to CERT

LAW

Law students participate in Jean-Pictet International Law Moot Competition

Every now and then, students from the University of Malawi will remind the world that this is a university that continues to produce high quality graduates.

The most recent proof of this fact can be seen in the fact that three students from the Faculty of Law, namely, Lusungu Mtonga, Andrew Mdala and Pachalo Mwenelupembe (accompanied by their lecturer Associate Professor Mwiza Joe Nkhata) represented the Faculty of Law, University of Malawi in the Jean-Pictet International Humanitarian Law Moot Competition in Virginia, United States of America from 28th March to 4th

April, 2015. Founded in 1989, The competition is named

after Jean Simon Pictet, a Swiss jurist and an expert in international humanitarian law. He is known for having been leader of the team that drafted the Geneva Conventions. The

competition is the leading international humanitarian law moot court competition. It offers a unique training experience in public international law, for law students.

The trip was funded by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Zimbabwe Office. Globally, 56, out of 105 teams that sent in applications, were selected to go to Virginia USA. Of the 56, only 7 teams were from the African continent. The selection process was based on essays that were written by the team members. This was the first time for the University of Malawi to participate in this competition in the 27 years of the programme. Our heartiest congratulations to Team Malawi!



Faculty of Law students at the Jean Pictet International Humanitarian Law Moot Competition.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

A Helping Hand from Afar: Soko Fund Awards

At a time when various promising students have had to withdraw due to failure to pay their school fees, there is unexpected assistance from overseas. On 11th April, 2015, there was an award ceremony for the Soko Fund which has this year (2014/15) academic year given scholarships to 6 female students from various programmes at Chancellor College. Four of these students are in their 3rd year and have been assisted by the Fund since their 1st year. Two are in 2nd year and one of them has been assisted from her 1st year whilst

the last of the two has had the scholarship from her 2nd year.

The Soko Fund sponsors needy female students with tuition and a flat upkeep allowance of K60,000 a year. The history of the fund is touching. It was

established in 2003 by two Scottish women, Ms Lindsey Graham and her friend Julie, who were teaching at Bandawe Secondary School and had learnt how hard female students were finding it to get money to go for University education. The two women then met Mr. Yesaya Soko, who told them how hard he was finding it to teach with only a Diploma qualification. Mr. Soko's dedication to duty and his zeal for work amazed these two women, which led to them offering him money to pursue a Degree in Education in Namibia. That is where the same of the fund sprung from.



The scholarship recipients pose together with the Assistant College Registrar, Mrs. L. Saka.

SPORTS

Chanco Staff Sports Association engages in relief drive

After the destructive rains at the beginning of the year, which have left many people in the country homeless, relief efforts have been pouring in from various well wishers. These are from within the country as well as outside.

The Chancellor College community has also shown its compassionate side in reaction to the disaster. Since the beginning of the year, staff and students have been exemplary in dipping from their pockets to assist other Malawians in need.

The Chancellor College Staff Sports Association is the latest among these well wishers. On 11th April, 2015, the

Association visited Chikwawa district, one of the worst affected areas of the floods. The staff members donated some relief items at Medram Camp located in Group Village Headman Medram, T/A Mulilima.

The camp has about 52 families who have lost property and homes in the floods. There are a number of such camps established to temporarily house those affected by the floods. However, the victims of the floods still lack for basic needs such as food.

Executive members of the Association had earlier on made a call to members of staff at the college, who promptly responded with donations

in the form of cash, which was used to purchase food items, including maize flour, *bonya*, soya pieces, small fish, exercise books, and writing materials.

Apart from the donation presentation ceremony, the Sports

Association—true to its name—participated in a friendly football game against Kaponi Stars at a jam-packed Chikwawa community centre ground. The Chanco staff met with stiff competition in the game, which ended in a 4-4 stalemate.



The President of the Chanco Staff Sports Association, Mr Phillip Neliyo, presents a carton full of relief items to a Camp Resident.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

End of 1st Semester Exams marred by cheating

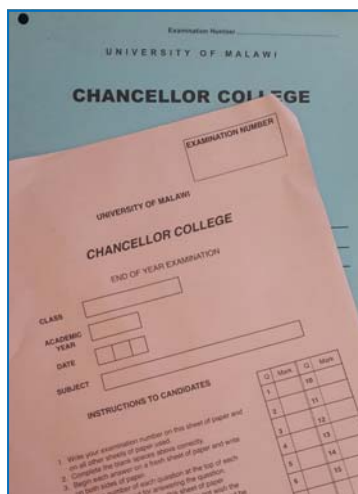
The end of the first semester exams for the year 2014/2015 would have been uneventful if it were not for a few occasions of students being found cheating.

During one such exam, the invigilator found a student with over 10 sheets of notes, secretly brought into the exam room.

Students have always been encouraged to study hard well in advance of exams. However, despite such advice, instances of cheating, though rare, still occur. They can stem

from poor preparation by the student, or simply from fear of under-preparation.

The regulations of the college clearly state that any cases of cheating by students shall be referred to the College Disciplinary committee.



Exams: sources of anxiety.

College to revert to original invigilation procedures

One of the outcomes of the Leadership training sessions at Mangochi was the decision by Chancellor College Deans and Heads of Departments to revert to the original invigilation procedures laid down in the University of Malawi Regulations.

Making the announcement to academic staff members, Vice Principal Assoc. Prof. Samson Sajidu stated that the original rules would be followed from the second semester of the 2014/2015 academic year.

A few years ago, the

college decided to improvise and give departments the responsibility of invigilating their own exams. This decision was made upon observing that some lecturers did not report for invigilating duties that they had been assigned by the college administration. This led to complaints from some members of staff whose exams had been poorly administered.

However, at the recent workshop, Heads and Deans agreed that the college should revert to the old procedures. They encouraged the College Administration to take to task those staff members who abscond from their invigilating duties.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

2014/2015 SUCC and UMSU Representatives sworn in

Chancellor College Students and Staff community attended the swearing in ceremony of the 2014/15 academic year SUCC executive and Chancellor College UMSU representatives, which took place on Monday 9th March, 2015 in the Great Hall at Chancellor College. The new SUCC president is Mr. Frank Chidampamba, with Ms Ellen Kafuwa as the Vice-President.

Speaking at the function the Guest of Honor who was the Principal of Chancellor College, Associate Professor Richard Tambulasi, thanked the outgoing executives for their vigorous leadership during their term. He

mentioned that all was possible because the past SUCC executives consulted continuously with the College Administration in making crucial decisions. He congratulated the new SUCC executive for making it through a very stiff competition and encouraged them to emulate the past SUCC in order to have an academic year without strikes.

The incoming SUCC President thanked the students' community of Chancellor College in having confidence in him and his committee to serve them in the 2014/15 academic year. He asked for unity and promised that the new SUCC



The Principal, Assoc. Prof. Richard Tambulasi, swearing in a new student leader.

executive would make a difference. He promised to work with the Chancellor College administration so that students' learning environment continues to improve. He paid gratitude to the outgoing

SUCC and said there would always be something to learn from them. There were so many expectations but ended up saying "Everything is possible and together we will do it".

E-LEARNING

Chanco almost ready to roll out ODL and E-Learning programmes

Since its establishment in 2014 the E-Learning Centre has carried out a number of activities in preparation for launching Chancellor College's own Open Distance Learning (ODL) and E-learning programmes. This is in response to UNIMA and CHANCO's Strategic Plans. UNIMA strategic plan Pillar 1 on Teaching and Learning and on a strategy to widening access has an objective of taking more diverse students in various programmes. One of the

activities is to introduce more e-learning modes of teaching and learning and mounting satellite campuses between 2012-2016. As a way of fulfilling UNIMA's objective, CHANCO Strategic Plan anticipates an increase in its enrolment through e-learning and ODL. The Centre has now its own office in the Library-Ground floor.

Besides running the E-Learning programmes for the Pan African Project, the E-learning Centre is in the process of laying a

foundation for launching ODL/E-Learning Programme. With the Studio now in operation, the Centre is in a process of setting up three Satellite Centres in the

three regions of the Country. Negotiations are at an advanced stage with Malawi College of Distance Education in Blantyre, Mzuzu Trade Testing Centre in Mzuzu and Lilongwe Technical College in Lilongwe. These places were visited and rooms were identified.

Preparations are going on with respect to programmes to be offered. The Center organized a Workshop that took place on 6 and 7 April at Hippo View Lodge. Participants to the workshop were Deans and Heads of Departments



Director of E-Learning, Dr. Ken Ndala

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We would like to join the Biswicks and the Ngwiras in celebrating the entry to life of Tamika Biswick and Wiza Jean Ngwira respectively. We welcome

these new additions to the Chanco community!

On as sad note, as the Lord giveth and He also taketh, we join the college community in

mourning the passing of our Procurement Officer, Mr. Peter Mbedza-Mbewe.

We also note with sadness the passing of Mr.

Pearson Wahera, in the final days of April, 2015. May their souls rest in peace.

Thank you for taking time to read through the Bulletin. We welcome your feedback and news for future editions!