



Scribbling for Success

Penned by the Deanery

Welcome Note

Welcome to the June issue of our newsletter. Hopefully you're surviving the Winter weather and getting ready for Spring. If you were on holiday with the family, I hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing time. Many thanks to all the staff who were involved in the recent examination in ensuring we maintained an excellent exam standard. *Please also look out for an invitation to a lunch date with the Deanery. Staff in groups of 30 will be invited for a snack and chat with a member of the Deanery to share your opinions on how the Faculty is being managed.* Every opinion counts as we work on building up the Faculty. We'll also host two annual larger "Town Halls", for no-limits discussions hosted by the Faculty's Transformation Committee.

Our Faculty

- ❖ 100 years old
- ❖ Five Departments
- ❖ 101 academic staff
- ❖ Salmon pink graduation gown
- ❖ Two satellite facilities

Within the Box



★ **Saying farewell to our beloved mates:** We recently has to rehome some of our OTAU horses. Many thanks to our students and OTAU management together with the Deputy Dean T&L for facilitating the process and finding their new homes. We are currently working on putting some of our beagles up for adoption. We'll keep you informed of the process.... Especially when we get to welcome some new doggies to the pack.

★ **BVSc accreditation report.** Yes, it is finally over. While the report still needs to be finalized by the SAVC, AVBC and RCVS, *the report did not identify any major deficiencies.* Once we have the final report, we'll make it available to the Faculty. One finding we're proud of, was an unofficial comment from our RCVS visitor who said that *our students should take pride in the level of case exposure they receive which is superior to many other veterinary schools in the world.*

★ **VRE Projects:** Thanks to all staff who submitted their VRE projects. Moving forward we'll be changing the process of allocations slightly, which our heads will discuss at department level. While I understand that these projects require time and planning, this module is key to the accreditation of the BVSc programme as a holistic veterinary syllabus. Why... *early exposure to research methods promotes critical thinking and the ability to interrogate scientific research and optimize patient treatment.*

★ **NRF rating:** Congratulations to our newly rated researchers. I wish you well as you advance in your research career.

"Even in the confinement of life's limitations, let your spirit soar like a vulture breaking free from its box. Embrace the challenges within, for they are but stepping stones to the limitless skies of your dreams."

Faculty of Veterinary Science

Fakulteit Veeartsenykunde
Lefapha la Disaense tša Bongakadiriwa

- ★ **Hans Hoheisen:** What started as an idea 15 years ago is now ready to become a fully fledged UP research centre, with future plans to become a transdisciplinary platform. Plans are also approved to add more accommodation, possibly by converting the old in-door herbivore stables into student accommodation.

Outside the Box

- ★ **Faculty Funding:** As mentioned in the previous edition, we have been in discussion with the DHET to look at Faculty funding. We've had a number of discussions thus far, and we're optimistic that we'll receive a positive answer soon.
- ★ **Faculty Evaluation:** We recently completed our 2023 Faculty Review for the UP Council. While it was a tough year, it was *great to see our average module pass rates reaching pre-COVID levels*. We also awarded 250 degrees of which 20 were PhDs.
- ★ **New Minister:** This last month saw a major change in our elected officials. In addition to having a new Minister, we now have Agriculture as its own Ministry. We're hopeful that this signals new thinking on the importance of agriculture to our economy. In his maiden address, Mr Steenhuizen emphasized the importance of biosecurity and the animal identification scheme.



Imploding the Box

- ★ **A superb hospital:** In the last few weeks, the Faculty has been approached by a number of pharmaceutical companies to ascertain our interest in being involved in veterinary clinical trials. While we're not yet geared towards clinical trials, this highlights once again how highly our clinical services and facilities are looked upon by external persons.
- ★ **Vaccines as our future:** The Faculty was approached by a new vaccine consortium, Rubrix One Health, for which we now have a MOU. The consortium hopes to establish a new veterinary vaccine factory in the Eastern Cape, and intends on partnering with pathology, clinical pathology and OVARU to do much of their research and development work.
- ★ **A new selection journey:** In addition to making some key suggestions to Faculty Board – *Goodbye Value-Added Form*, we have launched our new Wanna Bee (a veterinary professional) magazine. The intention of the magazine is to introduce the profession to high school kids in a fun and easy to understand manner. We'd welcome any feel-good veterinary story you'd like to share that promotes our profession, and any other fun activity that we could include in a magazine in a written format.

Questions

Drop The One (aka Neo) a question and we'll make sure we answer.
Don't be afraid to challenge us, give us direction or suggest strategies to take the Faculty forward:
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