



# Scribbling for Success

Penned by the Deanery

## Welcome Note

Welcome to the August issue of our newsletter. I trust everyone had a good woman's month. And we probably don't say it often enough, but a big thank you to all our ladies for everything you do for the faculty. The University will also be launching a Woman in Leadership programme which looks at developing our future academic leaders at the University.

We've also received a few anxious concerns about the second Veterinary Faculty. At this stage, the feedback we have received is that treasury has not allocated funding for this as yet. So, while a new Faculty is certainly on the horizon, it is unlikely to admit its first students in 2027.

Following our conversation sessions, a number of staff have asked about the University's support structures that allow the faculty to operate. Currently the University has just over 4700 staff, with 2800 staff being within all the faculties. The other staff provide support services from library to HR to security support to the faculties.

### Our Faculty

- ❖ First PhD awarded in 1931
- ❖ 250 degrees awarded in 2023
- ❖ 283 Professional and service staff
- ❖ Two satellite facilities

## Within the Box



★ **Graduation:** The Faculty recently held our Spring Graduation. The Faculty awarded **28 Degrees** with four of these being PhDs.

★ **Programme Qualification Mix (PQM):** Student administration and the deanery has been working with the team at Institutional Planning to clean up our PQM and to ensure that the correct names are reflected on the degree certificates. Moving forward, the University will be setting up a committee that looks at all UP documentation before it serves at Faculty Board and Senate. It was very interesting experience for the team and highlighted the complexities of getting qualifications approved for government subsidy.

★ **Health and safety reps and First aiders:** The faculty has 30 health and safety reps with two vacant positions and 61 first aiders including 20 undergraduate students and three vacant positions for the 2024-2025 period. Five fire marshals have been appointed.

★ **SANAS Accreditation:** In the past few months, a number of the DVTD laboratories and the milk lab have re-assessed for compliance with the ISO/IEC 17025 standard. For both Departments,

"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**

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Lefapha la Disaense tša Bongakadiruiwa

our laboratory staff were able to address non-conformances for re-accreditation. Congratulations to all our technical staff for their hard work and dedication in keeping our laboratories accredited.

## Outside the Box

★ **Flexible Futures Workshop:** A number of staff recently attended the flexible futures workshop, once again [emphasizing the value our academics place on Teaching and Learning as a Faculty](#). The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in T&L was also discussed with completely new opportunities beginning opening up in this field of assessment. The new ClickUP Ultra modules already has some of the new AI functionalities which would assist in the creation of rubrics and quizzes.



## Imploding the Box

★ **Feedlot Challenge:** [Cattle are coming back!!!!](#) Being on a wetland, it sometimes becomes very tricky to maintain proper draining within our paddock. But this has not deterred our staff at PAS. They saw a problem and convinced industry to provide the funding needed to fix the pens. A job well done by all.

★ **Anipedia:** The Infectious disease of livestock, plant toxicology and parasite books were converted into digital media and is available through Anipedia for all staff and students for free (<https://www.anipedia.org/>). Prof Coetzer and Dr Peter Oberem, who are the founders of Anipedia, are also in discussion with the library to transfer the platform over to UP.



- ★ **Bristol University:** UP is currently in the process of setting up discussion with the University of Bristol. Discussions are proceeding well, and Prof Oosthuizen will be hosting an online discussion session later this year. Areas of common interest are: [One health, infectious disease, biosecurity, disease transmission, poultry diseases, AMR, public health, sustainable agriculture \(incl. small-scale farmers\), inflammation and immunotherapy, microbiome studies](#).
- ★ **Ankara University:** With the kind assistance of the Ambassador of Turkey, Prof Mosia has been in discussion with Ankara University for potential collaboration opportunities. Their Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has indicated an interest of working with the faculty initially in areas of food safety and AMR.
- ★ **Wellness:** The SAVC will be hosting a wellness campaign online on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. They have encouraged as many SAVC registrars as possible to attend. If you do have the time and are a member of the SAVC, [please take the opportunity to listen to our own Monica van Niekerk](#).
- ★ **Sibanye Stillwater:** Sibanye Stillwater has been working with the University and the Faculty of Economic and Management Science towards the development of micro-entrepreneurs in agroprocessing. After discussions with them on partnership opportunities, the faculty has been invited to participate in their farm development programme, whereby they trying to develop a mini-feedlot. Staff members will be visiting the site in Kroonstad to better understand how the faculty can get involved further.

## 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: [neo.mashitisho@up.ac.za](mailto:neo.mashitisho@up.ac.za)

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