

22 December 2016

Dear Colleagues

As many are aware, the College advertised the four Dean positions recently. I am pleased to report that appointments have been made into three of those positions. Unfortunately, we have not been able to fill the Position of Dean and Head of School of Clinical Medicine, and we are continuing to search for a candidate. The position will be advertised again in the new year.

Professor Busi Ncama has been the Dean and Head of School of Nursing and Public Health since 2012, and I am pleased to announce that she has been reappointed into that position for a second term. Her hard work and dedication to the staff and students in the School have resulted in a much stronger and integrated school as we enter 2017. She has indicated many ideas for further improvements, so challenges await her as she takes up her second term. I wish her all the best in achieving her objectives for the School.

Dr Musa Mabandla was successfully promoted to Associate Professor in this round of promotions, and firstly, I congratulate him on that achievement. I am also very pleased to announce Professor Mabandla's appointment as the Dean and Head of School of Laboratory Medicine and Medical Sciences. Professor Mabandla has been acting in the role of DHOS during 2016, and in this year has performed excellently, and has already had an impact on the strategy and direction, and implementation within the School. I am very excited about his future ideas, and I am convinced that he will be taking the school to new heights.

The Third appointment is that of Associated Professor Sinegugu Duma as the College Dean of Teaching and Learning.

Prof Duma has received her Diploma in Nursing (General, Community Psychiatric) and Midwifery in 1989; her B Cur in 1995; her MCur in Nursing Education (Student nurses' perceptions of clinical teaching behaviors that enhance learning) from UKZN in 1998. She received her Doctor of Philosophy (Women's journey of recovery from sexual assault trauma: a Grounded Theory) from UCT in 2006. Prof Duma was appointed as an Associate Professor and Head of the Division of Nursing & Midwifery at University of Cape Town since 2008. Prior to that she worked at UKZN as the coordinator of the distance programmes in Nursing. Prof Duma is an established academic leader and scholar, and has been appointed to serve as chairperson of the Lesotho Council for Higher Education, Chair of the South African Nursing Council Accreditation Committee and Deputy Chair of Education. She was appointed by the Cape Higher Education Consortium to lead the development of the Western Cape Regional

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Undergraduate Nursing programme that is offered by four regional universities. She has been recognized through becoming a Fellow of the Academy for Nursing in South Africa in 2013, and was inducted into the Hall of fame for Research Excellence in Nursing by FUNDISA in 2016. Prof Duma has successfully graduated four Doctoral and 12 MSc students. She is currently supervising 6 PhD and 5 Masters students. Prof Duma has published extensively, and raised a number of large grants. Her main areas of publication include into sexual violence within Universities and in society more broadly, as well as into barriers to provisioning nursing care.

Prof Duma will take up the role [from 1 April 2017](#). We look forward to welcoming Prof Duma back into the fold at UKZN, and I wish her every success in her new role as the College Dean of Teaching and Learning.

Dr Shenuka Singh fulfilled the role of Acting College Dean of Teaching and Learning during 2016, and I express my appreciation for her stepping forward into that role. She has brought a fresh perspective and energy to the position, and helped us maintain the strong focus that the College has on Teaching and Learning, especially in the excellent training of practitioners. I am pleased to say that Dr Singh has agreed to continue in the role of Acting Dean of Teaching and Learning until the end of March, when she will hand over to Prof Duma. One of her key projects will be to focus on assisting staff to develop Teaching Portfolios for promotion in the 2017 cycle.

I am pleased to share with Colleagues that Associate Professor Mahmoud Soliman, the Dean and Head of School of Health Sciences was promoted to Full Professor during this promotion cycle. As colleagues are aware, Prof Soliman was also ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the University in terms of publication outputs, and I congratulate him on both achievements.

Finally, I have to acknowledge the strong contribution that Professor Hift made as the Dean and Head of School of Clinical Medicine during his 5 year Term. The quality assurance and student support systems have been implemented, the curriculum aligned, and innovative approaches planned and implemented which has made UKZN stand out leaders in alignment to national development plan and government strategies. Especially in his tireless engagement with DOH and clinical colleagues did he manage not only to keep the ship afloat, but to create the shared vision and platform that underpins our future. His immense effort is much appreciated.

The whole College Leadership works as a strong team, and these appointments will further strengthen the team in leading the College to achieve our objectives.

I am looking forward to working with the team in 2017.

Regards

Rob Slotow  
DVC and Head of College of Health Sciences