THE BOARD OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

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PROFESSOR OF NEPHROLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

University of Nairobi
ISO 9001:2008 1 Certified
http://www.uonbi.ac.ke
Functions of The Board of Postgraduate Studies

- The coordination of postgraduate regulations and syllabus
- The admission of postgraduate students
- The administration of postgraduate scholarships
- Administration of postgraduate research grants
- The administration and processing of postgraduate theses, projects or research papers
- The proper conduct and supervision of postgraduate programs
- The general welfare and discipline of postgraduate students.
TASKS OF THE BPS I

- Admission of postgraduate students
- Approval of all postgraduate regulations and syllabus
- Co-ordination of postgraduate regulations and syllabus
- The administration and processing of postgraduate thesis, projects and research papers
TASKS OF THE BPS II

- The general welfare and discipline of postgraduate students
- Administration of postgraduate scholarships
- Administration of postgraduate research grants
- The proper conduct and supervision of postgraduate study programs
An overview of what we discussed at the last BPS workshops. Realizations or otherwise
Proceedings of the BPS workshop held at KCCT Mbagathi between 5th an 7th July 2006

- Lack of a corporate image of the BOARD
- Understaffing of the Board's secretariat
- Shortage of space: office, store and conference room(s)
- Lack of equipment including up to date computers and furniture
- Administrative and managerial shortcomings
- Poor local, regional and international linkages and outreach in terms of academic, community and industry links
Proceedings of the BPS workshop held at KCCT Mbagathi between 5th and 7th July 2006

* Lack of timelines in the implementation of admissions, supervision, management of examinations and graduation – There, but not adhered to!!!

• Poor handling of students’ welfare with respect to orientation, accommodation and general well-being
The establishment of a board of postgraduate study centre in its own building conveniently located to house such facilities like offices, seminar/conference rooms, banking facilities and related activities, to ensure corporate image of the board as well as alleviate shortage of space.
To have **adequate, suitable, qualified and structured** personnel at the board’s secretariat.
To provide fully equipped and facilitated computers and other equipment so that every personnel has access to a computer
To ensure timely and efficient management in respect of admissions, supervisions, examinations and graduation of students, through strict adherence to normative stipulated times.
To establish a dedicated centre for the welfare of foreign students with respect to orientation, accommodation and general wellbeing of the students through such services like counseling and medical care.
To increase by one and half (11/2) times the normative registration period for all postgraduate programmes. This should be clearly indicated in the letters of admission.
The main supervisor/adviser for a student be paid a motivational honorarium of US$ 200 per year. Each of the three examiners of the thesis be paid US$ 200. the money should come from the student’s payment for supervision and examination fees, respectively.
For effective teaching and coverage of the syllabus, all postgraduate programmes should have a seventeen (17) weeks semester, comprising of fifteen weeks of teaching and two weeks of examination.
• There should be at least two supervisors/advisers for each postgraduate student. This ensures a balanced supervision and continuity until the student graduates.
• All international students should pay 20% more of the fees charged.
• For effective and timely supervision of postgraduate students, the staff/student supervisor ratio should be on average 1:4.
Due to the large number of postgraduate students currently registered by the Board, there is an urgent need for increased personnel and space. In addition, at least five modern models of computers should be applied.
• Recommends that the regulations for the submission of the **thesis for higher doctorate degrees** of the University of Nairobi (Statute XXVI, 1985-6) be reinstated in the current revised University Calendar.

• **Fellowships** from CHS being dealt with
THE NEW CAPE COLOURED TOOTHBRUSH

GATIEP MOOSA
African iPod
Vision:

A world-class university committed to scholarly excellence
Vision:

A world-class university committed to scholarly excellence
Marketing and Publicity

- Open days
- Exhibitions
- Social media – more recently
Should vary from programme to programme

Medical and Dental sciences require more

Case study where we (UON) ended up in court and the students (CHS) beat us thoroughly (WON)!

NOT EASY
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACADEMIC YEAR</th>
<th>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1996/1997</td>
<td>582</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006/2007</td>
<td>8,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009/2010</td>
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Capacity Issues - Resources

- Human
- Physical
- Financial
Over 400 programmes

- Arts and Humanities
- Biological and Biomedical Sciences
- Physical Sciences

- Almost 10 - 20 new programmes every year
- Revised every five years – not in many areas!
Challenges in the Supervision of Postgraduate Students

- Lack of formal training at undergraduate level in research design, data analysis and interpretation.
- Relatively heavy teaching load for lecturer/supervisors
- Lack of up to date research journals.
- Wanting research environment and facilities.
- Poor monitoring and evaluation of students.
- Failure of both students and supervisors to adhere to the stipulated common regulations for both Masters and PhD degrees.
- Low morale among supervisors due to lack of remuneration.
Areas in which Expectations need to be Articulated and Negotiated

- Extent and nature of direction from the supervisor
- Degree of independence of the student
- Procedures for consultation – frequency, preparation, conduct
- Submission of written work- progress report
- Nature and timing of response from supervisor
- Appropriate role of supervisor in editing
- How ideological differences are going to be handled
Areas of Possible Enhancement

* Application processing and tracking.
  - Online tracking and up-dating of the academic progress of students.
  - Digital archiving of student files and document management.
  - Online management of international linkages, research and funding.
  - Provision of a platform for online/ e-learning facilities.

**MAKING PROGRESS – NOT QUITE THERE!**
Expectations From the above Enhancements

- A streamlined, efficient and effective service delivery.
- Attraction of more students from beyond our borders.
- Reduction of recurrent expenditure e.g stationery and postage charges amongst others
<table>
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<tr>
<th>AWARDING BODY</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>DEGREE</th>
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<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>MASTERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SASAKAWA</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>MASTERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAAD</td>
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<td>MASTERS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PhD</td>
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Admission Process

- Advertisement for application in the media, mainly print
- Applications to BPS
- Dispatch to Schools/Faculties/Institutes
- Distribution to departments for selection
- To FPSC for selection
- To S/F/I for selection
- To BPS for final ratification
- Letters sent out to students letting them know of the outcome
Challenges in Processing Postgraduate Admissions

- Failure by Departments to process applications on time
- Provisions of inadequate information by applicants, for example transcripts, degree certificates, research proposals
- Submission of late applications by some applicants
- Requests for early admission by those applicants who want to solicit funding for their studies
Challenges in processing Postgraduate Admission

- Foreign students’ peculiar problems
  - Transfer of application fees
  - Exchange rates
  - Late receipt of admission letters
  - Insufficient information on accommodation
- Frequency of admissions
- Processing admissions for applicants who studied under different systems
Students Expect Their Supervisors

- To read their work well in advance
- To be available when needed
- To be friendly, open and supportive
- To be constructively critical
- To have a good knowledge of the research area
- To structure the situation so that it is relatively easy to exchange ideas
Policy-related issues that student need to be familiar with

- University’s Occupational Health and safety policy
- Intellectual property considerations
- Research Ethics (Human and Animals)
- Responsibilities for good research practice in the collection and storage of data and records