



# THE BOARD OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

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# 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 5<sup>th</sup> an 7<sup>th</sup> July 2006



- Lack of a corporate image of the BOARD
- Understaffing of the Boards'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 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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



# RECOMMENDATION 1



- 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



## RECOMMENDATION 2



- To have **adequate, suitable**, qualified and structured personnel at the board's secretariat





## RECOMMENDATION 3



- To provide fully equipped and facilitated computers and other equipment so that every personnel has access to a computer



## RECOMMENDATION 4



- To ensure timely and efficient management in respect of admissions, supervisions, examinations and graduation of students, through **strict adherence to normative stipulated times**



## RECOMMENDATION 5



- 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.



## SPECIFIC ISSUES RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION 1



- To increase by one and half (1 1/2) times the normative registration period for all postgraduate programmes. This should be clearly indicated in the letters of admission





## SPECIFIC ISSUES RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION 2



- 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.



## SPECIFIC ISSUES RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION 3



- 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.



## SPECIFIC ISSUES RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION 4



- There should be at least two supervisors/advisers for each postgraduate student. This ensures a balanced supervision and continuity until the student graduates.



## SPECIFIC ISSUES RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION 5



- All international students should pay 20% more of the fees charged.





## SPECIFIC ISSUES RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION 6



- For effective and timely supervision of postgraduate students, **the staff/student supervisor ratio should be on average 1:4.**



## SPECIFIC ISSUES RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION 7



- 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.

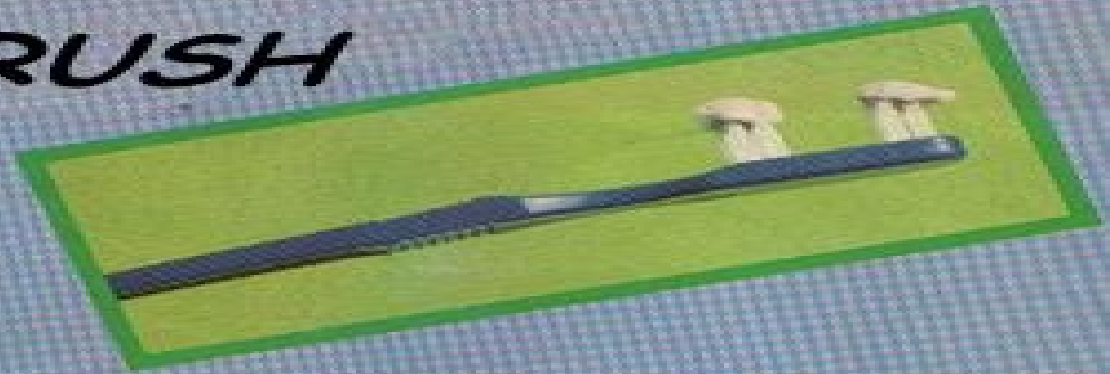


## SPECIFIC ISSUES RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION 8

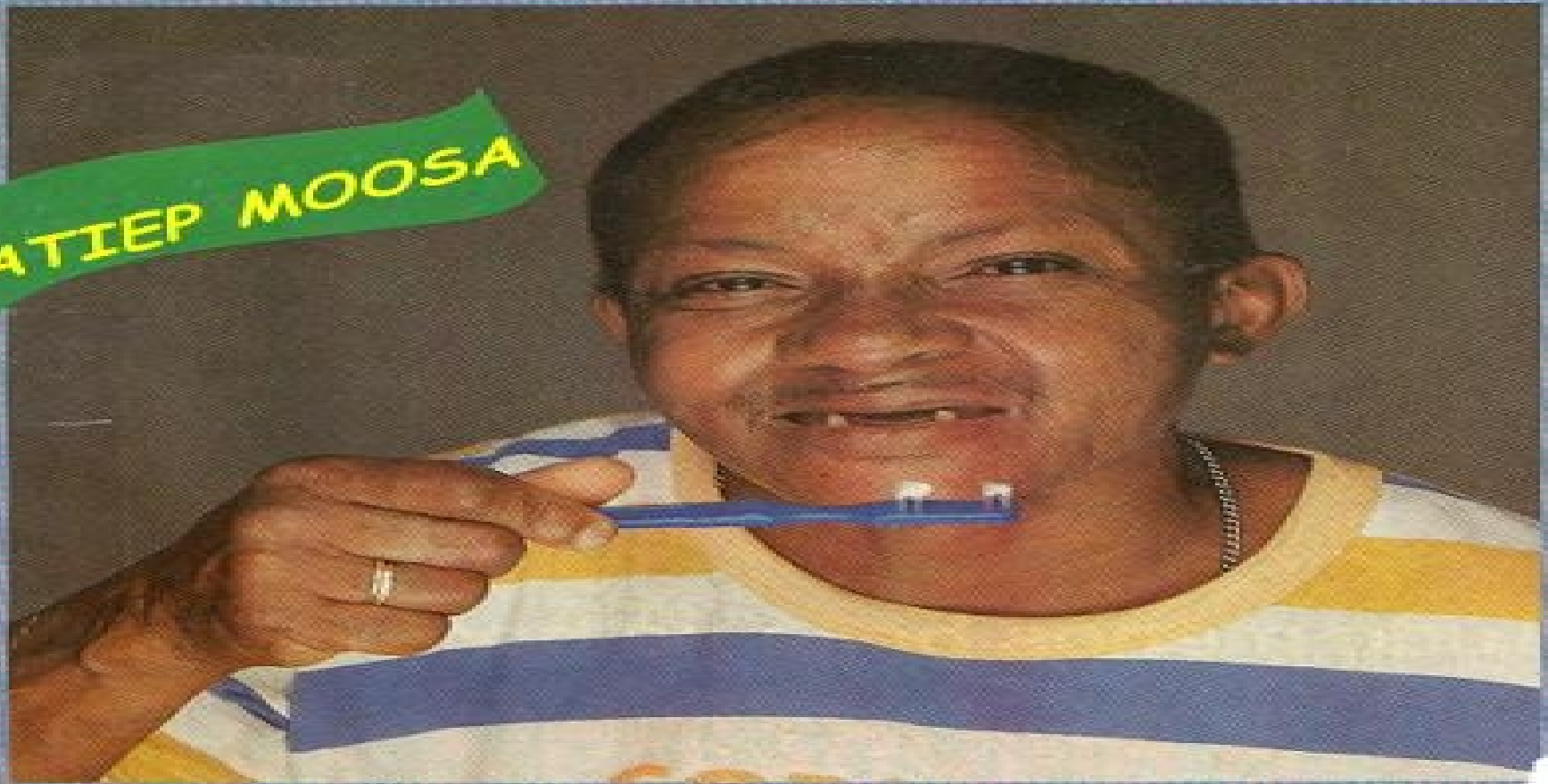


- Recommends that the regulations for the submission of the **thesis for higher doctorate degrees** of the University of Nairobi (Statute XXVI, 1985-6) be reinstated in the current revised University Calendar.
- **Fellowships** from CHS being dealt with

# THE NEW CAPE COLOURED TOOTHBRUSH



GATIEP MOOSA







## African iPod



# The University of Nairobi



## \* **Vision:**

A world-class university committed to scholarly excellence



# The University of Nairobi



## \* **Vision:**

A world-class university committed to scholarly excellence



# Marketing and Publicity



- Open days
- Exhibitions
- Social media – more recently



# Fee Structures, Costing and Pricing



- 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

# STUDENT NUMBERS

ACADEMIC YEAR

NUMBER OF STUDENTS

1996/1997

582

2006/2007

8,250

2009/2010

13,728





# Capacity Issues - Resources



- Human
- Physical
- Financial



# PROGRAMMES



- 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

# Scholarships and Bursaries

AWARDING BODY	NUMBER	DEGREE
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI	112	MASTERS
SASAKAWA	7	MASTERS
DAAD	5 3	MASTERS PhD





# 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