New Year Message

Dear USIU-Africa Community,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back for the 2017 Spring Semester!

Join me also in welcoming our freshmen and graduate students who are joining us this semester, as we offer them all the necessary support they require to begin their academic journey here.

I did report in my end of year message, what an extraordinary year 2016 was, in which we welcomed thousands of new members to our community, launched major new initiatives and programs and continued on our remarkable journey as Kenya’s oldest and most innovative private university, and as the region’s only dually-accredited institution, whose ambition is to offer a global perspective as a premier institution of academic excellence.

The changing dynamics in Kenya’s higher education

As you may be aware, only about 15.49% of the 2016 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exam candidates met the university minimum academic entry requirement of a mean grade of C+(plus), which is a significant drop compared to previous years. This is likely to have a direct effect on enrollments in all universities, both public and private.

The students who attained the university entry requirements and qualify for government funding will have the freedom to choose the universities they can attend whether public or private. The recently amended University Act makes no distinction between private and public universities.

Thus while the KCSE results pose a significant challenge to our student recruitment efforts, they present an opportunity to sharpen and position USIU-Africa to attract the best students.

New programs in Summer 2017

As part of our strategic goal to continue providing globally competitive and innovative academic programs incorporating research and co-curricular activities for holistic education, beginning Summer 2017 we will be launching the following new programs having received approval from our U.S. accrediting body – WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC):

- Bachelor of Arts in Film Production & Directing
- Bachelor of Science in Epidemiology & Biostatistics
- Bachelor of Arts in Animation

Please take the earliest opportunity to share this information with potential students and parents/guardians who may be interested. Our Marketing and Communications team is in the process of designing and implementing a campaign which will be shared with the relevant internal and external stakeholders regarding the same. Further details will be available on our website and at the Office of Admissions.

What makes USIU-Africa unique?

In the wake of these new developments, it is important that we reaffirm the qualities that make USIU-Africa unique.

- We deliver on our promise of a world-class higher education that guarantees holistic development. This is achieved through well-designed innovative academic programs incorporating research and co-curricular activities. Our programs and activities are delivered to the highest standards, as reflected by our status as a dually-accredited university.
- The quality of our unique, market-driven and tested academic programs guarantees employability of our graduates, making us stand out from our competitors.
- Our unparalleled student exchange programs and the diversity of our student and faculty population, provide our students with the international exposure to become globally mobile and competitive. Thus fulfilling our promise of an education that takes our alumni places.
- Our high quality learning facilities incorporate unmatched resources such as the award-winning library, as well as top-of-the-range IT, journalism and pharmacy labs, offer enriched opportunities for research and innovation.
- Our student-faculty ratio enables our students to receive individualized faculty mentoring. Our graduates are self-aware, self-inspired and high achievers.

Our current strategic plan envisions the growth of student numbers to 10,000 by 2020, and this is tenable if we all work collectively. I urge all of us to be our own ambassadors by sharing who we are, and our unique programs with potential students, parents and partners.

Going forward

Given the changes in the higher education subsector, the University Advancement team shall engage various university stakeholders to come up with a raft of measures that will ensure that we are on course to attain our enrollment target in the strategic plan.

Meanwhile, admission of new students (which includes qualified 2016 KCSE candidates) this semester, shall remain open until the last day for registration - Monday, January 23.

I am sure you appreciate the new year’s challenges and opportunities for success, which I believe we shall all exploit for prosperity of our University. It’s important that we all work collectively while exhibiting professionalism in our various duty stations, to deliver on the academic, operational and service excellence expected of the premier university that we are.

Finally, I would like to most sincerely thank you for everything you do to contribute towards the continuing success of this extraordinary premier university. I look forward to an even more interactive, productive and engaging 2017, as we deliver on our promise of a quality, innovative and holistic education to all our students.

On behalf of the University, I wish you a very happy new year, filled with fulfillment and great success in all that you do.

Sincerely,

Prof. Paul Tiyambe Zeleza

VICE CHANCELLOR