

MAKERERE

P.O. Box 7062
Kampala Uganda
Website: <http://mak.ac.ug>



UNIVERSITY

Tel: (Gen) +256-414-532631/4
Fax: +256-414-542803
E-mail: pro@admin.mak.ac.ug

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

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PRESS STATEMENT

The University Senate to elect three (3) representatives to the Search Committee

This follows the University Senate meeting held on Tuesday 13th March 2012 in which the members of Senate present resolved to conform to Section 44 of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001 on matters pertaining to the composition of the University Senate.

Refer to my previous communication on this issue and I quote:

“In a letter dated 23rd February 2012, the Solicitor General advised the University that until when the law is amended, the applicable law is the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, 2001.

That the search process should be carried out leading to the appointment of the Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellors under the Universities and other Tertiary Institutions Act, the current applicable law.”

The Applicable law is the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001:

Section 31 (2) 2001 states that: The Vice Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor on the recommendation of the University Council from among three candidates recommended by the Senate.

Section 31 (3) states that: A search committee composed of two members from the University Council and three members from the University Senate shall identify suitable candidates for the post of Vice Chancellor and forward them to the Senate to nominate three candidates for recommendation to the University Council.

Following the interpretation from the Solicitor General, the University Council headed by Chairperson-Eng. Dr. Charles Wana Etyem constituted a meeting on 7th March 2012 and approved the process of initiating the Search Committee in accordance with the existing law. (The above mentioned sections of the Act).

The University Council, which is the supreme governing body of the University, elected two (2) representatives to the Search Committee namely Mr. Bruce Balaba Kabasa and Dr.

Stephen Maloba.

As stated above in Section 31 (2), the Search Committee comprises five (5) members, three (3) of whom are elected by the University Senate.

The University Senate has held a meeting today, Tuesday 13th March 2012 and observed that before they elect the three (3) representatives to the Search Committee, there was need to ensure that the composition of the University Senate was in conformity with Section 44 of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001.

To this end, the Members of the University Senate present observed that as per Section 44 of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, there was a need to fully constitute the University Senate before they elect the three (3) representatives of the University Senate to the Search Committee.

**Section 44 of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act is as follows:
THE UNIVERSITY SENATE AND OTHER ACADEMIC BODIES**

University Senate

44. (1) There shall be a Senate for each Public University whose maximum number of members shall be determined by the University Council from time to time, but the *ex-officio* members shall not be reduced.
- (2) The Senate shall consist of the following members –
- (a) Vice-Chancellor;
 - (b) the Deputy Vice Chancellors;
 - (c) Deans and Directors of faculties or schools as may be established within the University;
 - (d) two representatives of the Principals of constituent colleges, schools or institutes.”
 - (e) such number of professors and associate professors of the University that the University Council may determine which shall include at least one professor or associate professor from each faculty or school of the University elected by the academic staff of the faculty or school;
 - (f) the University Librarian, Bursar, Dean of Students and Secretary;
 - (g) such number of the Non-Academic Staff that the University Council may determine to be elected by the Non-Academic Staff;
 - (h) two students of the University to be elected by the students in accordance with the Students Union Procedure;
 - (i) three persons who are capable of contributing to the academic and social development of the University appointed by the Minister from the public.
- (3) Appointed members of the University Senate shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment.
- (4) The Vice-Chancellor shall be the Chairperson of the Senate and shall preside at all meetings of the Senate at which he or she is present and in the absence of the Vice-Chancellor one of the Deputy Vice-Chancellors shall preside.
- (5) The Academic Registrar of the University shall be the Secretary to the Senate.

As per Section 44, the following positions need to be filled by the procedures stipulated by the law.

- Special reference to 44 (d) The Principals of Colleges should elect amongst themselves two (2) persons to represent them on the University Senate.
- Special reference to 44 (e) Each School within a college should elect one representative to represent it on the University Senate. This sub-section will lead to

30 persons at the level of Professor or Associate Professor becoming members of the University Senate.

- Special reference to 44(h) two students of the University to be elected by the students in accordance with the Student Union Procedure. We have noted that the Students' Guild is yet to be sworn since the GRCs from whom the Guild President elects Guild Ministers are yet to be voted. This means that the University Senate is yet to receive the names of the two (2) Guild Representatives as Members.

From the above three highlights, the members of the University Senate who attended the meeting on Tuesday 13th March 2012 observed that out of the total of the 76 members who should constitute Senate (with reference to Section 44), the positions of 34 persons were not filled.

The members of the University Senate present have therefore resolved to give the concerned personalities/schools/Institutes/bodies up to Monday 19th March 2012 to elect their representatives to the University Senate as per Section 44.

The fully constituted University Senate as per (Section 44 of the Universities and Other tertiary Institutions Act) would then meet on a date yet to be communicated by the Academic Registrar to select the three (3) representatives to the Search Committee for the Vice Chancellor.

NOTE: As the process is ongoing, the status quo still stands:

As such, Professor Venansius Baryamureeba is the Ag. Vice Chancellor; Professor Lillian Tibatemwa Ekirikubinza is the Ag. Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs) and Professor Sandy Stevens Tickodri -Togboa is the Ag. Deputy ViceChancellor (Finance and Administration).

**Sincerely: Ritah Namisango, Senior Public Relations Officer, Makerere University,
0702944224**