

Makerere to change 80 courses



Makerere University Vice Chancellor, Prof John Ddumba-Ssentamu, on Monday said the committee tasked to review their academic programmes in 2014, was expected to submit a final report to the Senate on March 30.

IN SUMMARY

The changes. The draft proposes that 30 degree courses be merged, 18 be restructured, while 21 undergraduate diploma courses, 11 undergraduate certificates and three degree programmes be scrapped.

Kampala. Makerere University intends to scrap or merge 83 academic courses in the proposed programme restructuring to achieve effective training for the students.

The draft report by a committee set up by the university two years ago, which Daily Monitor has seen, proposes that 30 degree courses be merged, 18 be restructured, while 21 undergraduate diploma courses, 11 undergraduate certificates and three degree programmes be scrapped.

The report suggests that Bachelor of Information Systems and Bachelor of Information Technology from the College of Computing and Information Science be merged into one substantive course because more than 90 per cent of their content is similar.

The Makerere University Vice Chancellor, Prof John Ddumba-Ssentamu, on Monday said the committee tasked to review their academic programmes in 2014, was expected to submit a final report to the Senate (the university's highest academic-decision making organ) on March 30.

"The President said we restructure our programmes and we see what we can do. It has been a long process but we expect the final report on March 30," Prof Ddumba said.

The committee, chaired by Prof Richard Odoi Adome, was expected to review all undergraduate and postgraduate academic programmes and identify duplications, possible mergers, their economic viability and relevance.

They were also supposed to look at the unit cost for each programme, staff teaching loads and submit their findings in three months. These would then be presented to President Museveni, who had directed the institution's management to review its academic programmes and establish a unit cost for training a student on their various courses.

The students had been engaged in persistent strikes opposing the university decision to increase first year tuition fees by 10 per cent. To restore sanity at the university, Mr Museveni said the government would pay Shs2.4 billion, which the university had expected to recover from the increment. However, this has never happened, according to sources who preferred anonymity. Prof Ddumba was non-committal on the matter.

Why restructure

According to Dr Vincent Ssembatya, the head of the directorate of Quality Insurance that provided secretarial services to the committee, the review would make the academic programmes broader with core courses and provide options for specialisation, while undergraduate programmes based on single cross-cutting disciplines

like development studies, entrepreneurship and communication skills shall be phased out as district courses and be studied as cross-cutting courses. “Programmes targeting the same group and address similar job opportunities shall be merged, each university student should be helped to learn how to make and manage a business out of the course they study,” he said.

pahimbisibwe@ug.nationmedia.com

[Back to Daily Monitor: Makerere to change 80 courses](#)