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OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

3rd February 2010

To: Members of Staff

THE SECOND VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MONTHLY PRESS BRIEFING, HELD ON MONDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2010

Introduction

The Ag.Vice-Chancellor, Professor Venansius Baryamureeba welcomed the University Management, members of staff present and journalists to the Second Vice Chancellor's media briefing.

Professor Baryamureeba reminded the journalists that the monthly press briefing will be held every first Monday of the month.

He informed journalists that he scheduled the press briefing at 8:00a.m, as he was due to attend the Appointments Board meeting starting at 9:00a.m.

However, Professor Baryamureeba announced that all future briefings will start at 10:00am.

In attendance were:

- (i) Dr. S. Tickodri-Togboa – Ag. DVC (Finance & Administration)
- (ii) Mr. David Kahundha Muhwezi – University Secretary
- (iii) Mr. Alfred Masikye Namoah – Academic Registrar
- (iv) Mr. John Ekudu – Dean of Students
- (v) Mr. John Wabwire – Director, Planning and Development Department
- (vi) Mr. Robert Kakembo – Deputy University Librarian
- (vii) Mr. Godi Muhumuza – Ag. Senior Legal Officer
- (viii) Dr. George Nasinyama – Deputy Director-Research, School of Graduate Studies
- (ix) Dr. David Guwatudde – Deputy Dean, School of Public Health
- (x) Mr. Jimmy Kiberu – Public Relations and Communication Specialist
- (xi) Ms. Jane Frances Alowo – Lecturer and Communication Specialist
- (xii) Mr. Henry Mayega – Personal Assistant to VC (Administration)

- (xiii) Ms Deborah Namirembe – Personal Assistant to VC (General Duties)
- (xiv) Ms Ritah Namisango – Administrative Assistant – PRO
- (xv) Mr. Mark Wamai – Web Manager – PRO
- (xvi) Mr. Issa Agaba – Marketing Officer – PRO

Professor Baryamureeba made brief remarks, and thereafter called upon the representatives of The School of Graduate Studies and School of Public Health to make their presentations, as shown in the following sections:

1.0 Acting Vice-Chancellor’s briefing

Online Registration of Students.

This starts today 1st February 2010. All the courses that are running this semester are now available in the teaching timetables. In the first two weeks, students will register for courses there are taking this semester. Students shall not be allowed to register online or manually after the end of 2nd week (14/02/2010). So by 15th February 2010 we shall know the maximum number of students intending to sit for examinations this semester. The students are expected to clear their tuition and functional fees as per the Council policy. **Students will be regarded as having fully registered after payment tuition and functional fees otherwise the registration will remain partial.** It is only fully registered students that will get examination permits that will enable them to sit for tests and examinations.

Electronic Feedback to Parents and Guardians.

We are currently capturing contacts (e-mail addresses, mobile numbers) of parents and guardians from which lists shall be generated. Once the lists are in place we shall start sms and e-mail service to the parents and guardians. The information will be on the students and University. Each parent/ guardian shall receive a regular updates from the University. In the near future parents can also request for instant information via e-mail or sms.

Makerere University Public Relations and Communications Board

In a bid to improve the public relations and communications function at Makerere University the Acting Vice-Chancellor has put in place a Public Relations and Communications Board comprised of the following eminent Ugandans:

Name	Current Employment	Tel	E-mail
Dr. Peter Mwesige	Director The African Centre for Media Excellence	0772313067	mwesige@yahoo.com
Mr. Stephen Shalita	Senior Communications Specialist East Africa Hub, World Bank	0772738620	sshalita@worldbank.org
Mr. Jimmy Kiberu	Public Relations and Communications	0772200205 +254-722-	jimmy.Kiberu@gmail.com

	Specialist	516124	
Ms. Rose Nakalanzi	Lecturer in Communications studies, School of Education	0772427872	rnakalanzi@educ.mak.ac.ug
Mr. Michael Niyitegeka	Head, Corporate Relations Office, Faculty of Computing and IT, Makerere University	0772672300	mniyitegeka@cit.mak.ac.ug
Ms. Jane Frances Alowo	Lecturer of Communications, Institute of Languages, Faculty of Arts, Makerere University	0712507937	janefalowo@yahoo.com

The Board is at will to co-opt not more than two (2) persons as it deems necessary. The Board members at their first meeting will elect the Chairperson. The meetings of the Board shall be either online or face-to-face for flexibility purposes. This Board is an Advisory Board to the Vice-Chancellor who is the Chief Public Relations Officer of the University. The Public Relations Office shall be the Secretariat to the Board.

Makerere University Alumni Development Account

The alumni development fund is to enable alumni on behalf of Makerere University raise funds and undertake major projects aimed at creating endowment for Makerere University. Makerere University convocation, Makerere University Management and other stakeholders are spearheading this joint initiative. The Account details are as follows: Bank Name, Stanbic Bank – Makerere Branch; Account Name, ‘Makerere University Alumni Development Fund’; Account Number, 0140071293901.

For remittance Please pay:

Stanbic Bank Uganda Limited
SWIFT Code: **SBICUGKX**

Pay through USD Account number 04096521
Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas New York, NY
SWIFT Code: **BKTRUS33**
ABA: **021001033**

2.0 Deputy Dean, School of Public Health, College of Health Sciences, Makerere University

2.1 Partnership for African Cohort Research and Trainig (PaCT):

Makerere University School of Public Health has for the past many years been extensively involved in research and community initiatives focusing on communicable diseases such as Malaria, HIV/AIDS, etc. The impact of this broad effort has been

significant both at national and international levels. However, it has come to our notice that non communicable diseases have not been given due attention, despite a now globally recognized growing burden and increasing contribution to morbidity and mortality. Many developing countries in Africa are experiencing increasing rates of urbanisation that are quickly followed by changes in diet, lifestyle and increasing environmental pollution.

The changing life style to “developed-country-type” of diet and sedentary life styles as well as the on-going rural-urban migration has contributed not only to increased populations of urban poor who have higher risk of infectious diseases, but also increased the risk of chronic Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

In response to this growing public health problem, a team of researchers at Makerere University School of Public Health, in partnership with researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health in the USA, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Muhimbili University in Tanzania, University of Ibadan in Nigeria and Stellenbosch University in South Africa are collaborating to initiate research to study the magnitude, trends and risk factors for chronic non-communicable diseases in Africa. They have formed a partnership called Partnership for African Cohort Research and Training (PaCT), to conduct research and training that will largely focus on NCDs such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, chronic kidney disease, chronic pulmonary conditions, diseases of environment pollution, mental health conditions and cancers.

The research will involve a total of 500,000 participants recruited across Africa, of which 200,000 will be from Uganda. The research will make use of innovative technologies such as follow-up of research participants using cell phones to collect survey data. This collaborative research will also provide an opportunity to train young scientists from various fields and help initiate careers for African Scientists in this field. In Uganda, Mbarara University will focus on a typically rural cohort, while Makerere University will focus on a transitional cohort with rural, semi-urban and urban populations to enable study trends in the occurrence of NCDs across different urbanisation profiles.

2.2 Visit of the Harvard Team to Makerere University

A delegation from the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, USA visited Uganda between 21st and 22nd January 2010. The delegation was led by Professor Hans-Olov Adami, who is the Chairman of the Department of Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health. Other members of the delegation included Associate Professor Michelle Holmes and Dr Shona Dalal. The purpose of their visit was to continue discussions on the collaboration and also seek commitment and support from the Makerere University and the Ministry of Health. During their visit, the team met the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, the Principal of the College of Health Sciences, the Dean of the School of Public Health and the Head of the Department of Physiology. At the Ministry of Health, the team met the Minister of Health and the Commissioner of Health Services in charge of Community Health. The team also visited the proposed sites at Kasangati Health Centre and Luwero District in addition to delivering a seminar on Non-communicable diseases to the staff and students of the College of Health Sciences.

2.3 Multivitamins, Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART) and HIV/AIDS in Uganda

Previous studies have established that use of multivitamins during the pre-ART period among HIV infected individuals improves viral control and immunity thereby delaying the need to initiate ART. It is however not known if use of multivitamins during ART could further improve treatment outcomes like virus control and immunity. In collaboration with partners at the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI), and the Harvard School of Public Health in the USA, a team of researchers at the School of Public Health are in advanced stages of conducting a clinical trial to determine if one recommended dietary allowance (RDA) dose of oral multivitamin supplements (including vitamins B-complex, C, and E) given daily for 18 months will:

- a) improve immune reconstitution (as indicated by CD4 cell count);
- b) improve weight gain, and
- c) improve quality of life

Enrollment of participants in this trial is expected to begin in April 2010, and it will enroll a total of 400 participants.

2.4 New MPH Programme

During the academic year 2009/2010 MUSPH started a new training program in Masters of Public Health Nutrition, the first of its kind in the African region.

2.5 International Family Planning Conference

MUSPH and John Hopkins in November 2009 hosted the largest family Planning conference in the world in the last 10 years with attendance of 1,415 participants from more than 150 countries. It was opened by the First lady at Munyonyo resort Hotel and was attended by Ministers of Government (Uganda) and the African Union (Addis) and Makerere University's Vice Chancellor, Professor Venansius Baryamureeba.

2.6 Family Planning and Research Center

In November last year, MUSPH received a donation of US \$250,000 to support the construction of a Family Planning and research Center at MUSPH Makerere University from the Gates Institute of Population and Family Planning at John Hopkins University.

2.7 Family Planning Multi-country study

MUSPH has also received funding for a 3-year multi-country study in family planning; each year will be allocated US\$ 150,000. It is funded by the Gates Institute of Population and Family planning at the John Hopkins School of Public Health. The study will be conducted in Nsangi, in Wakiso District.

2.8 MUSPH-University of California joint grant

We have been awarded a joint grant together MUSPH and University of California San Francisco USA for the "Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Building" for the

CDC/PEPFAR programs in Uganda. It is a 4-year project with a total value of about 4 million US Dollars. It starts 1st Feb 2010

2.9 MUSPH-Kwazulu Natal University NIH grant

MUSPH with Kwazulu Natal University South Africa won an NIH grant for Capacity Building Health Informatics. It will aim at training Faculty and other Ugandans at Masters Level initially in South Africa and then develop the Masters course at MUSPH. These will strengthen the Health Information system of the Ministry of Health. The value of the grant is 2.1 Million Dollars over three years starting September 2010.

2.10 MUSPH-Muhimbili University School of Public Health HEMP support

MUSPH and Muhimbili University School of Public health have been given another US 382,000 to support the Health Emergency Management Program (HEMP) as part of the Schools of Public Health Alliance of the schools of Public Health in Six countries, including Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Kenya, and the DRC. It is a USAID funded Project that is building capacity at District level for Disaster preparedness and response. This is the third year of the Project. The Rockefeller has also added US\$ 130,000 to supplement this project during the year 2010. Last year the project received US \$ 480,000 from USAID and US\$ 350,000 from Rockefeller Foundation. We are working with John Hopkins and Tulane University. The in-country PI in Uganda is Dr William Bazeyo and Tanzania is Prof J. Killewo.

2.11 Duke Global Health funding

MUSPH has obtained funding from the Duke Global Health program funds for a pilot study in Health systems of which the success will open possibilities of funding in the Area of Health systems. The funds are US \$ 121,000 for 10 months starting Feb 2010.

2.12 MUSPH-New Vision Joint CSR

The School is in advanced stages of discussions with the New Vision for Joint a "Cooperate Socio Responsibility" (CSR) agreement. This aims at publishing, educating and sensitizing the Uganda population with appropriate, scientific, up to date and much needed health information through the print media, radio and Bukedde television.

3.0 Deputy Director Research, School of Graduate Studies, Makerere University

The School of Graduate Studies has the mandate to promote and coordinate Research & Innovations, and graduate training at Makerere University. During 2009, a number of research partnerships were initiated and or nurtured both from within and outside the University to enhance knowledge generation, sharing and exchange. These partnerships have helped enhance resource mobilization for graduate training and research.

3.1 Status of Projects Coordinated by SGS

a) The Carnegie corporation-SGS sub-program: Carnegie funding Phase III (2008 - 2011)

Carnegie Corporation of New York has supported research at Makerere through one of the components coordinated at SGS titled: 'Further Strengthening Research Capacity at Makerere University'. This project is implemented under the theme of 'Food, Nutrition and Value Addition' now in Phase III. This on-going project supported by Carnegie Corporation of New York is to the tune of **USD 731,500** for the period 2008 - 2011. The release for the reporting period i.e. 2008-2009 was **USD 582,160**. The benefiting Faculties are: Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

Achievements under this project include:

- Capacity building through award of competitive research grants is on-going. For example, eleven research teams and ten (10) PhD students were awarded research grants through a competitive process. The teams are busy collecting data.
- Enhanced knowledge and skills of academic staff through targeted training in Research Management (23 members of academic staff trained) and two cohorts in Scholarly Writing and Communication Skills (49 members of academic staff trained). Staff are publishing in refereed journals and winning research grants.
- Staff are supported to attend international conferences and present their research results/outputs – seven (7) have so far benefited.

b). The Norwegian Institutional Development Programme

NORAD is supporting a research sub program coordinated by SGS on 'Food, Nutrition and Value Addition' to the tune of **USD 904,000** for a four year period 2006 - 2009. This sub program has provided research grants to 24 research teams headed by Senior researchers through a competitive process under this theme. So far 50% (12) projects have been completed and the rest are ongoing. The benefiting Faculties are science based and include: Faculty of Forestry and Nature Conservation, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. The 24 research teams have had 30 Masters students attached and 18 have so far completed the Masters degrees.

c). The PREPARE-PHD Project

The project encompassing the three East African Universities – Makerere University (Uganda), University of Nairobi (Kenya) and Sokoine University of Agriculture (Tanzania) in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen – Denmark under the STRAPA partnership is funded by EU to the tune of **600,000 Euros** for the period 2008 – 20011.

The project specific objective is to create efficient and effective Ph.D. training systems through strengthening local research capacity and regional networking in the participating Higher Education Institutions (HEI).

A baseline survey on how to improve PhD training and supervision across the three Universities has been carried out; a team of senior supervisors has had series of ToT in Arusha, Tanzania and will be required to train other supervisors across their respective Universities; the Rules and Regulations for PhD training and supervision have been

harmonized; and a network for PhD students at Makerere is in the offing. A summary of research support coordinated through the SGS is provided in Table 5.

d) Makerere-Sida/SAREC Research support program

The Sida/SAREC Research support program that began in 2000 ended the Second Phase in December 2009. Overall, support so far has clocked USD 31 million. During the reporting period, SGS received slightly over USD 2 million towards research. The benefiting Faculties include:

- College of Health Sciences (Then Faculty of Medicine and Institute of Public Health)
- Faculty of Technology
- Faculty of Social Sciences
- Faculty of Agriculture
- The University Library
- Department of Mass Communications
- DICTS
- Gender Mainstreaming Division
- School of Graduate Studies

The grant has supported over 150 PhD students registered at Makerere or in Sweden or both over the 7 year period (2003-2009). This collaboration initiated the first joint degree program between Makerere and Karolinska Institute where six Ph students have benefited under this special arrangement. Specifically under the SGS component, capacity building through 3 skills enhancement training workshops have been held during 2009 i.e. Research Management, Scholarly writing and Communication Skills, and Procurement. Research grants were also awarded to 47 graduate students in Faculties not benefiting directly from Sida support. As a result of the skills enhancement workshops, staff are writing grant winning proposals, there is an increasing number of publications in refereed journals and recognitions in the international scientific arena.

Table 1 Summary of Research funding in the year 2009/2010

SOURCE OF FUNDS	FINANCIAL YEAR	FUNDS	
		Ug Shs	*USD \$
IGF	2009	482,416,662	242,420
SIDA/Sarec	2009	4,138,883,000	2,079,841
NORAD	2008/2009	155,878,300	78,331
CARNEGIE	2009/2009	1,106,104,000	582,160
CARNEGIE**	2009/2010	39,000,000	20,000
1@Mak	2009	10,710,000	5,382
Total		5,932,991,962	3,008,134

*Exchange rate – 1 USD = Ug Shs 1900

**Targeted Initiatives Program

Of the six PhD candidates in the 2008/2009 supported from IGF, one of these candidates Dr. Maiga Gilbert of the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology completed his studies and is graduating this January 2010. Twenty six members of staff were also enabled to travel and

present papers orally to conferences abroad. Four conferences were supported including Sustainable Human –Livestock, Wildlife Interface: Convergence of Science, Health and Economics by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, AfricaGIS (Faculty of Arts), (Faculty of Science) and the annual Makerere Dissemination Conference 2009.

Four candidates sponsored under 1@Mak also completed their master's studies: George Kisiry M.Sc (Civil Engineering); and Ssentaba Simon James, Okia Okuso Samuel, Kamugisha Michael all with the Master of Physical Planning, respectively.

3.2 Sourcing for Research and knowledge transfer funds

The SGS has been instrumental in sourcing funds to support research, knowledge transfer and graduate training at Makerere University. The SGS galvanized the whole university for the first time and coordinated successfully the development and submission of Phase III proposal to the Swedish Government for continued support to graduate training, research and knowledge transfer at Makerere. The grant will also support capacity building in other public universities in Uganda to train at graduate level in Makerere. The grant of approx. USD 25 million over a 4½ year period commences in January 2010.

Currently, SGS together with the Directorate of Human Resources, Department of Planning and development and the Vice Chancellor's office has submitted a concept to the Carnegie Corporation of New York to support the building, nurturing and retention of the new generation of academics expected to start in October 2010. The level of funding will initially be USD 2 million for 2 years extendable to 3 years. Consequently Makerere University has been invited to a planning meeting regarding this initiative to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa in February 2010.

The SGS together with other organs of the university (Management, MUASA) have all along strongly advocated and championed for specific and targeted support to research and staff development to complement university efforts in capacity building, research that addresses national development agenda, and innovations. In October 2009, the government of Uganda established a research and staff development fund for public universities managed by the National Council for Higher Education. Makerere has now been invited to compete to for this support. We are confident that most of graduate training and research supported by this fund will be centered at Makerere University.

In the quest to strengthen innovations at the University, the SGS wrote a successful proposal to the Association of African Universities Targeted Initiatives Program supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The initial grant of USD 20,000 is to help establish an Intellectual Property unit at Makerere University. Makerere has been identified to act as a regional center for universities in this region in the area of IP. The IP unit is positioned to galvanise researchers in protection of their intellectual property and move research products and innovations towards commercialization.

The SGS has also developed different strategies for communicating research outputs to stakeholders of the University and the general public through electronic and non-electronic

media, respectively. The School of Graduate Studies organized the 2nd Annual Research Dissemination Conference with the theme “Sustainable Socio– Economic Development in Uganda: the contribution of Makerere through Research and Innovations” where researchers and scholars shared the findings of their work with various stakeholders. This conference attracted over 400 participants. The key thematic areas included Health and Health Systems for National Development; Natural Resources Utilization, Conservation and Environmental Sustainability; Agricultural Productivity, Food Safety, Security & Value Addition; Governance, Human Rights, Conflict & Disaster Management; and Technology for Socio-economic Transformation. Early in the year, the SGS together with the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) hosted the first open research day for secondary and university students at the UVRI campus, Entebbe. Over 2500 students from various secondary schools around Kampala and Entebbe, and universities participated. The purpose of the open research day is to interest young people in secondary schools to follow careers in the sciences. This is in line with government policy of promoting sciences.

3.3 Challenges related to research

The University has been running a competitive research scheme (both PhD and Postdoctorate research). This requires a documented peer review system. Until 2009, this was lacking. Makerere now boasts of a documented peer review system. The challenge, however, is the turnaround in the review of the proposals that is taking a bit long. The SGS proposes a 2-day retreat for all peer reviewers to expedite the process of review and provide a quick turnaround of the review process.

The other key challenge is operationalisation of the research and innovations as well as the Intellectual Property Policies. Aspects of these policies are being implemented though. Full implementation will require commitment from top management as well as the whole university community.

3.3.1 Challenges related to Databases

The SGS developed a number of databases to capture progress of graduate students, research and publications as well as research profiles of staff. These include the following:

1. Research Management and Coordination System, RMACs
2. Staff Research Profiles Database
3. Graduate Student Tracking System

These databases are homegrown solutions utilizing the expertise available among staff of the university particularly in DICTS and FCIT. Unfortunately, the source codes are not handed over to the university making the management of these databases difficult. For example, the RMACs module cannot be updated since the developer refused to offer support let alone relinquish the source codes. A policy is, therefore, needed that requires any providers of homegrown solutions to hand over the source codes to the university immediately after development of such a system.

Sincerely : Ms Ritah Namisango, Administrative Assistant – PRO