



Towards a Service-Oriented and Borderless University



Prof. John Akec

A word from the Vice Chancellor

The University of Juba was founded in 1975 on a simple, yet powerful idea of “relevance” – the imperative of addressing itself to tackling the pressing societal needs of the time. Hence, from the late 1970s, and throughout the 1980s, the University of Juba sought to train civil servants for the then autonomous government of Southern Sudan. The initial focus of studies was on education, natural and environmental studies, social and economic studies, adult education and training, and later, medicine. These were areas of great priority for Southern Sudan. And beginning around 1997, the University started to expand horizontally to offer programmes in diverse professional fields such as law, engineering, business and management, arts and humanities, fine arts, music, and drama. By early 2000, a number of specialized centres were established that included centres of peace and development studies, languages and translation, computer studies, geographical information systems, and diploma programmes covering a wealth of subject areas. And from 2015 to present day, more schools, institutes, and specialized centres have been added. These include: School of Public Service; School of Mathematics; School of Journalism, Media & Communication Studies; School of Veterinary Sciences; Kuajok Community College; and Graduate College responsible for coordinating the postgraduate programmes across the entire University.

What's more, the University launched the National Transformational Leadership Institute by 2016, followed by upgrading the Centre of Peace and Development Studies to Institute of Peace, Development and Security Studies in 2017. As a result of recent expansions, our student and teaching staff populations have risen from 10,000 students and 291 academic staff in March 2014 to 24,000 students

and 800 academic staff in September 2020 respectively. About 2,000 of the student population are postgraduates. This is the highest number of students and academic staff our University has ever recorded since teaching began in October 1977. It is welcome news which will inevitably pose its own challenges that include inadequate spaces for teaching the increased class sizes, and recruitment of additional faculty to teach new curricula. Such “externalities” are inevitable and will have to be managed with creativity and wisdom they deserve.

And that is not all. In academic year starting January 2021, the University of Juba is planning to launch new schools that include School of Petroleum and Minerals; School of Architecture, Land Management, Regional and Urban Planning; School of Medical Laboratory Sciences; School of Public Health & Nursing; and School of Pharmacy. New centres will include a Centre for Law Development at the School of Law, and Centre for Laboratory Technicians Training at the School of Education. The Deans' Board has also agreed to launch evening undergraduate programmes in law, business and management, social and economic studies, and computer science and information technology starting this academic year 2020/2021.

Furthermore, a new multidisciplinary master of science in entrepreneurship will be launched this academic year. Areas of focus include agribusiness, environmental innovation, financial-innovation, and social entrepreneurship. This master's programme is being supported by a grant from Regional Universities for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) as part of its community outreach programme that aims at enhancing food and nutritional security, improving agricultural value chain, beefing up local agro-industries, and transfer of agri-technologies. It also aims at creating self-employment opportunities for women and youth.

Moreover, the School of Public Service is planning to team up with the University of Warwick and Open University of UK on the one hand; and the Ministry of Public Service on the other hand, to launch capacity building programme for government officials. A pilot project launch is in the pipeline.

To conclude, Charles R. Van Hise, who served as President of the University of Wisconsin in Madison from 1903 to 1918, once declared at the start of his tenure: “I shall never be content until the beneficent influence of the university reaches every family of the state...the borders of the campus are boundaries of the state.” That declaration became the now famous “Wisconsin Idea.” This “Wisconsin Idea” was emulated by others and became the defining feature of the American university model to this day.

If anything, this historical vision of an American land-grant university gives us every confidence to continue along the path we long began to chart.



Preparation for Opening

Professor Mairi John Blackings, Academic Registrar

These are unprecedented times. We are facing something the like of which we have not seen in living memory. It calls for radical actions. The University is keen to rise up to the challenge. What is not an option for the University is to have this as a dead year. We have to find a way out. The plans for opening of the University are based on this understanding.

The University has made a lot of preparations for the opening of the University. It came out with four plans. Plan A was to start normally. This was derailed by COVID-19. Plan B was to have a hybrid system with science-based students, first years and final years to be on campus. Students doing arts, social sciences and humanities to pursue Home-Based Learning. Plan C was to be wholly Home-Based Learning for everyone. Plan D, which was rejected by the Deans' Board, was to do nothing and wait for the Government to act.

The Administration wrote to the National Taskforce seeking permission for opening based on Plan B. This was approved. The University has to put in place a whole plan for opening.

The University has to complete exams that were disrupted. Since this was a new challenge, we had to rise to the occasion. This means experimenting with Open-Book Examinations for the diploma students. The weighting had to be adjusted to take care of the new reality. We will monitor and evaluate student performance.

Once the University opens, there will be strict regimes of entry into the campus. No one will be allowed to enter without a mask on. Temperatures will be taken at the point of entry. Strict social distancing will be observed in lecture halls. Students will be advised not to congregate together. Where classes are large, staff are requested to split them into smaller groups.

The University is working towards the production of learning materials that would be prepared in distance education format. This means that actual contact hours may be reduced.

These measures are initially for one semester or until there is some counter directives on how to handle COVID-19.

University of Juba Appeals for Financial and Material Support

The University has dispatched letters to government institutions, embassies, UN agencies, NGOs, donor organizations, businesses, and individuals for financial and material support so as to open and at the same time comply with COVID-19 preventive measures.

The requested resources will enable the University to address the many challenges that opening the University, in the face of COVID-19 pandemic, entails. The challenges include poor or non-existent internet infrastructure, difficulty of access where there is some form of infrastructure, and the high cost of any installation and maintenance of on-line services.

The on-line teaching when implemented will not only move the University towards e-learning technology, but will also position the University at the cutting edge of information dissemination and knowledge sharing on par with other similar regional and international institutions.

Any support received will significantly assist the University to continue training the badly needed human resources for the country as well as restore hope to our people in the face of adversity.

Anyone who has not received a letter requesting support but is willing to assist, should not hesitate to contact the University administration through: +211 921 800 906; +211 921 665 562 or E-mail: mairijb@yahoo.co.uk or miltonlado@hotmail.com.

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Diploma Students Complete Examinations

In line with a resolution of a joint meeting of the senate and academic staff of the University of Juba held on 10 July 2020, 2309 second and third year diploma students from the Centre for Human Resource Development and Continual Education (CHRDCE) successfully completed examinations that were disrupted by the implementation of COVID-19 lockdown measures. Instead of the regular examinations, the students sat for open-book format examinations from 27 July 2020 to 3 August 2020. Before the lockdown measures were imposed by the government, 3123 students, mostly first year, had taken regular examinations. Unfortunately, 339 did not take the open-book examinations, most likely because of difficulties caused by the COVID-19. The table below provides details on the examinations and students who took them.

S/No.	School	Class	Department	Department	Department	Total
1.	Community Studies and Rural Development	2 nd year	Rural development	Development communication		
			225	176		401
		3 rd year	–	180		180
Sub-total			225	356		581
2.	Social and Economic Studies	2 nd year	Economic and Banking			
			170			170
		3 rd year	230			230
Sub-total			400			400
3.	Business and Management	2 nd year	Accounting and Finance	Business Administration	Public Administration	
			230	348	222	800

Congratulations to new Dean of School of Veterinary Sciences



Prof. Lewis Khamis Jaja
Dean of School of Veterinary Sciences

Congratulations to Professor Lewis Khamis Jaja on his appointment as Dean of School of Veterinary Sciences. Professor Lewis holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Sciences (BVSc) and a PhD in Veterinary Pathology from University of Khartoum, and a Certificate in Advanced Laboratory Diagnostics from Berlin Free University. He has previously served at the University of Bahr el Ghazal as Head of Department of Veterinary Pathology, Secretary for Research and Publication, Dean of Graduate College, and Dean of College of Veterinary Sciences. We wish him success in his new role.

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Lecture at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation

The academic staff of the University of Juba are actively involved in capacity building of staff of public institutions and other outreach activities in our country. Following this practice, on 6 August 2020, Dr Leben Nelson Moro, the Managing Editor of Juvarsity and Director of Planning, Innovation and Quality Assurance, delivered a lecture on: Drawing Lines on Water: Transboundary Water Resources, National Development and Water Diplomacy to diplomats at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation (MFA&IC). Chaired by Ambassador Dhano Obongo, Acting Director General of Political Affairs, the lecture focused on the conflict over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and mediation efforts to end it, the Nile Basin Initiative, and Jonglei Canal. The discussant, Ambassador Moses Akol, Director General of International Cooperation, made valuable contributions. Other senior diplomats, especially those who participated in past conferences and talks on water resources, also made useful interventions during the event. The participants expressed satisfaction with the lecture, and appealed for holding of more similar events, particularly to build the capacity of young diplomats and other officials of the Ministry.



Public Announcement

Certification of Trainers in Facilitating Face-to-Face Learning

The University of Juba Enterprise (UJE) invites applications from prospective, emerging and/or existing trainers for a capacity building training in Facilitating Face-to-Face Learning based on learning and performance approved standards leading to internationally recognized certification with Trainer Performance Monitoring & Assessment (TPMA) digital credentials in collaboration with International Finance Corporation – Learning and Performance Institute (IFC-LPI). Interested individuals or employers willing to upgrade their skills or that of their employees with the above mentioned credentials are encouraged to apply for this certification opportunity. Please contact the management via +211 925377037 or jonbathuel@gmail.com for guidance on the expected processes/procedures.

Note: Coronavirus is real. Thus, in compliance with safety measures, the use of sanitizers and other necessary restrictions will be observed during the training. But trainees are expected to come with face-masks.

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