USIU-Africa to host African bank’s premier Innovation and ICT Center of Excellence

By Dan Muchai

Following a rigorous selection process, USIU-Africa has been selected to be one of five Kenyan universities (and the only private one) to host the African Development Bank (AfDB)’s Coding for Employment Center of Excellence.

In a letter to the Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza, the Director General of the Bank’s Regional Development and Business Delivery Office (East Africa) Mr. Gabriel Negatu congratulated the university on becoming selected to collaborate with the Bank “to lead a revolutionary movement to nurture “Africa’s next generation of digitally enabled workforce.””

The AfDB Center of Excellence Program is a flagship initiative of a broader Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy, wherein the bank will seek to contribute to the creation of 25 million jobs for African youth over the next decade, and to equip 50 million youth with a mix of hard and soft skills to increase their employability as well as their entrepreneurial success rate.

The African Development Bank Group (AfDB) launched its Jobs for Youth in Africa (JfYA) Strategy to produce practical, high-impact solutions aimed at creating opportunities via education and training, transformative jobs and a business environment conducive to entrepreneurial activities.

According to the Bank, during the first year of the JfYA strategy implementation, 1.6 million jobs were created and 652,000 people trained, the large majority of whom were women and youth.

Some of the benefits that are expected to accrue to the university under this program will be the equipping of a fully operational Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Center of Excellence, equipped with innovative technologies, equipment and facilities; and demand-driven, industry-led ICT training from the Bank’s partners including Facebook Inc., Microsoft Inc., amongst others.
WSCUC accreditation reaffirmation team to meet various groups during USIU-Africa visit

by Dan Muchai and Aamrah Khan

The process of reaffirmation of USIU-Africa’s accreditation by the WASC Senior College and University Commission is almost drawing to an end.

Accreditation is a process of external quality review which serves to assure students, parents, policymakers, the broader educational community, and the general public that an institution has met high standards of effectiveness.

USIU-Africa is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) - one of seven regional accrediting agencies in the U.S. A major benefit of USIU-Africa’s accreditation is that credits and degrees are recognized for purposes of employment and transfer or admission to other institutions in the United States.

Every six, eight, or ten years, institutions accredited by WSCUC are reviewed to reaffirm their accreditation status. The two- to three-year process of reaffirmation of accreditation usually involves the completion of an institutional self-study and institutional report, an off-site review by WSCUC, and an on-site visit from the WSCUC team.

The WSCUC team shall be arriving on campus on Tuesday, September 18 to meet with various campus representatives as a followup of the offsite review at the beginning of this year.

Barbara Sawrey (Chair), Jillian Kinzie (Assistant Chair), Susan Albertine, Peter Michell and Nancy Marlin will be holding 45-minute sessions with various groups from members of governing bodies, to members of various faculty committees to selected undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students.

The process of reaffirmation of accreditation began with the formation of a self-study team in Fall 2017 which gathered data and filled in a compliance sheet. The taskforce then prepared and submitted an institutional self-study report in November 2017, before hosting an off-site review in January 2018.

Specifically, the visiting team will be following up on outstanding issues and verify or revise its preliminary findings concerning both compliance and improvement with WSCUC standards and the status of systems that ensure student success. With this in mind, the various meetings will proceed along 9 lines of inquiry:

**Decision-making and Governance:** Meetings will be held with all governance bodies: learning more about the relationship among these bodies, how they interact and how these structures facilitate decision-making;

**Financial Sustainability and Enrollment Management:** The team will meet with finance and strategic planning units to receive updates on key strategic actions to achieve long-term financial sustainability, including enrollment management strategies and the underlying assumptions for the 5-year budgetary projections;

**Culture of Evidence:** Meetings with the Offices of Institutional Research and Quality Assurance to understand how these entities interact, and how data is used to improve the quality of programs and support data-informed decision-making;

**Evidence for Student Success:** Meet with Alumni, Student Affairs, Institutional Research and Quality Assurance to examine how USIU-Africa is making use of evidence for student success through the whole student experience beginning with admissions, through student experiences, graduation and post-college outcomes, especially how data are disaggregated to examine student progress;

**Graduate Education and Doctoral Culture:** Meet with Academic Affairs Deans’ Committee to examine status of graduate and doctoral program development, faculty hiring priorities, the publication expectations and outputs for students, and to understand how the Graduate School culture fosters faculty, graduate and undergraduate research;

**General Education:** Meet the standing General Education and Education Effectiveness Committees to seek to understand the delays in implementing and assessing general education and the timeline for completing the cycle of review;

**Program Review:** Meet with Quality Assurance, representative Review and Assessment teams as well as School Deans to learn more about that status of program reviews, including updates on any program reviews that have been completed since the institutional report and how this evidence has been used in program improvement;

**Faculty Qualifications, Sufficiency and Development:** Meet with Quality Assurance, School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension and the DVC-ASA’s Office to seek to understand the institution’s goals for faculty hiring, particularly in the doctoral programs, and the status toward reaching these goals, and how the university is addressing faculty development; and

**Diversity:** Meet with the Student Affairs and Human Resource officials to confirm USIU-Africa’s assertion of a strong commitment to representational diversity. The team will seek to understand how the institution defines diversity and the challenges in implementing this commitment.
Strengthening of faculty and student research: The University has established a School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension to oversee standardization of the guidelines for supervision and examination of graduate and postgraduate research; the establishment of a research agenda for undergraduate students; and the strengthening of faculty research.

Enrolment, retention and graduation rates: The committee commissioned to survey trends in retention has already submitted the report, and has been given the task of making proposals for the setting of aspirational targets in enrolment, retention and graduation rates.

Program Assessment: The Educational Effectiveness Committee will organize meetings/workshops during which faculty in the various programs and in General Education will deliberate and agree on the aspirational standards of performance for both the core competencies and for each of the Program Learning Outcomes in their programs.

Program Review: The Office of Quality Assurance and the Educational Effectiveness Committee will review ways of addressing faculty workload/incentive to address the stalled reviews and to set up systematic procedures of following up the implementation of improvements.

GE Implementation: The University is already working on the implementation of General Education reforms. Many of the proposed changes including the process of setting General Education as a separate unit coordinating all the General Education elements in the Schools, are at an advanced stage.

Strengthening the Institutional Research Office: This will enable the office to provide leadership on how the procured TaskStream can support data mining, storage, and better disaggregation for effective decision making.

The university will be seeking to demonstrate the following areas of improvement:

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Given that the team from WSCUC will not be able to meet individually with members of the university community or honor any such requests, a confidential email account (usiuafrica@wscuc.org) has created by a WSCUC staff member, to give everyone the opportunity to communicate with the team. Emails sent to this address (which will be closed once the WSCUC team leaves on September 20) will not viewed by any USIU-Africa representative. Only comments made before or during the visit will be considered as part of the review process.

Individual responses will also not be made to information submitted in institutional reports, on-campus interviews, open sessions, and email comments collected and reviewed by the team, though the information thus provided, will be considered as the team undertakes its work and develops recommendations to the University.

The visiting team typically schedules open meetings with students, staff, and faculty to provide an opportunity for informal input from all members of the campus community about their experiences with the institution. Students are encouraged to comment on issues of academic rigor and consistency, availability of student support services, accuracy of information provided by the institution, and other matters related to the quality of the educational experience.
USIU-Africa students clinch new national leadership training initiative

By Dan Muchai

USIU-Africa’s rugby team captain Mr. Junior Onyango, Culture Week 2019 Organizing Committee Chair Ms. Ivy Wandia, and former Electoral Commission Chair Mr. Mathew Ndolo are among the inaugural recipients of the Imara Policy Fellowship 2018.

The Imara Policy Fellowship is a joint leadership development program offered through a local consultancy firm – Mak Appeal – which seeks to invest in future African leaders through the Imara Leadership Initiative, now in its first year. The award has been offered to 50 university students from across Kenya, for a 14-month-long capacity building in leadership; project proposal writing; data collection and analysis, formulation of policy and dissemination of findings.

Over the course of their training, the students will be posted to different counties where they will be expected to identify existing challenges through a review of legislation and regulations at county-level, and thus to develop market strategies and draft policies that resolve any such issues. Experts in policy-making will then evaluate their proposals to see how well the students articulate themselves in policy formulation.

Commenting on receiving news of the award Associate DVC - Student Affairs Prof. Wangari Mwai congratulated the three students, pointing out that USIU-Africa was in the unique position of having all its nominees receive the coveted fellowship. In her view the award is part of the University’s efforts to “expose, train and equip students with skills that will enhance their social skills and levels of employability,” adding that the program offered an opportunity for the University to integrate the program among leaders of student organizations on campus.

Prof. Zeleza to address university at VC’s Convocation

By Dan Muchai

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza will address the university community on Monday, September 17 at 10.30am in the auditorium.

The gathering, formally known as a convocation, will provide members of the community with the opportunity to be appraised on the university’s plans for this academic year.

This is only the second time the Vice Chancellor is hosting the annual convocation, which will be followed by the DVC’s Convocation on Wednesday, October 3, and a Deans’ Convocation at a later date.

Consultant neurosurgeons Dr. Michael Magoha (left) and Dr. Lee Ogutha (right) conducted lifestyle diseases talks on Monday, September 10, and Tuesday, September 11, courtesy of the Brain, Spine and Rehabilitation Hospital.

Their talks dwelt on how chronic non-communicable diseases such as obesity, chronic backache, diabetes, hypertension, musculoskeletal disorders and even cancer arose from lifestyle choices. The Monday session was primary geared towards students of the Bachelor of Pharmacy program, while the latter session was designed and delivered to a general university community audience.
Faculty Promotions

University Professors

PROF. GEORGE K’AOL
PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

PROF. DAMARY SIKALEH
PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

PROF. STEPHEN NYAMBIGERA
PROFESSOR OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Associate Professors

DR. ZACHARY MOSOTI
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT & HUMAN RESOURCES

DR. JOSEPH KAMAU
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MARKETING

DR. CAREN OUMA
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

DR. PATRICK WAMUYU
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY

Faculty Hires

DR. VERONICA KALUYU
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

DR. FREDRICK ODOYO
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF FINANCE & ACCOUNTING

DR. MAUREEN KANGU
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MARKETING

DR. MARY MUTISYA
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HOSPITALITY

DR. MARGARET NJOROGE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BUSINESS LAW

DR. QUIN AWWUOR
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

DR. JOSEPHINE NIDANU
LECTURER, PSYCHOLOGY

DR. COLLINS ODJO
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS & TECHNOLOGY

DR. MARGARET NJOROGE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY
Vice Chancellor Prof. Paul Zeleza addresses the third freshman class of 2022, together with their guardians/parents during their orientation on Monday, August 27, 2018.
PHOTO: ANTONIO LONGANGI

Dr. Eliab Some addresses a section of new MBA students during their orientation on Friday, August 24, 2018, on the steps of the Freida Brown Student Center.
PHOTO: DAN MUCHAI

Freshmen interact with their student guides during a group session of the Fall 2018 undergraduate orientation on Monday, August 27, 2018. PHOTO: ANTONIO LONGANGI

Professor of International Relations and Chair - Department of International Relations, Prof. Cassandra Veney, addresses new graduate and doctoral students in the School of Humanities & Social Sciences during the Fall 2018 Graduate Orientation on Friday, August 24, 2018. PHOTO: ANTONIO LONGANGI

Staff Hires

ANTHONY KOPIR
CHIEF MANAGER - PROCUREMENT

GERALD MAHURO
PRINCIPAL INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH OFFICER

REAGAN JUMA
STORE KEEPER

Fall 2018 Student Orientation
Media Mentions
Compiled by Diana Meso

September 9: The Standard Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Today’s kind of funeral serves different goals.”

September 4: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Kenya Arts Review in an article titled “Choosing art as inspiration and enterprise.”

September 4: The Standard Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Unbeaten champions thrash Amira in weekend encounter.”

September 3: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Standard Digital in an article titled “Storms prove too good for KPA.”

September 2: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Storms halt KPA’s unbeaten run on the domestic front.”

September 2: USIU-Africa was mentioned by KBC in an article titled “KCA University beats Lakeside 67-47 in men basketball match.”

September 2: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Make that 9-1! Butali rout Nakuru.”

September 2: USIU-Africa was mentioned The People’s Daily News “100 Great achievements of President Daniel Moi at 94yrs.”

September 2: KBC mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Butali Warriors cement hockey premier league lead.”

September 2: USIU-Africa was mentioned online in an article titled “Global Health Professor Dr. Chinekwu Obidoa Participates In Carnegie Fellowship In Kenya.”

September 1: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Daily Nation in an article titled “Blades test for KPA after KCAU job.”

September 1: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Busy weekend for KPA sides in leagues.”

September 1: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Daily Nation in an article titled “Why corruption is bad for your health.”

August 31: USIU-Africa was mentioned by UNISUN News Alert in an article titled “Osun State University Selected To Host Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow.”

August 31: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Daily Nation in an article titled “KPA start life without star forward.”

August 28: The Standard Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Double joy for Zetech in weekend ties.”

August 26: Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Rampant Equity rout Masaku Sparks.”

August 24: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Mpasho in an article titled “Memphis Bar and Restaurant addresses rape allegations by Xtian Dela on social media.”

August 20: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Amref Health Africa in an article titled “Reflections from MDI 2018: Solving Africa’s Health Challenges.”

August 18: USIU-Africa was mentioned online in an article titled “Laureen Aseka’s 200k monthly income from tomato farming.”

August 18: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Sparks exact sweet revenge on Footprints in basketball league.”

August 18: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Of sitting in V.S. Naipaul’s Makerere chair, and personal recollections of the legend.”

August 18: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Blades face tricky Umoja in basketball men’s league.”

August 17: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Growing seedlings for the big money.”

August 17: Citizen Digital mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Warriors, Footprints chase for wins in weekend basketball action.”

August 17: USIU-Africa was mentioned by TUKO in an article titled “Trending: Nairobi blackout, Theresa May Visit, Sh40 billion buildings demolitions.”

August 17: USIU-Africa was mentioned online in an article titled “The new KTN faces: Two ex-radio newscasters, one ex-KU TV star and an ex-gospel singer — all fresh from campus.”

August 14: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Corruption & Money blog in an article titled “More than sh0.8Billion from Non-State Organizations Step to Support Kenyan Universities in Research.”

August 11: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Accountants upset Ulinzi Warriors in national basketball league.”

August 10: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “Table toppers Blades tackle World Hope.”

August 9: USIU-Africa was mentioned by Scrummage in an article titled “USIU fly-half ruled out till 2019.”

August 9: USIU-Africa was mentioned by the Daily Nation in an article titled “Too Early for Birds’ has been brewing for years.”

August 8: The Daily Nation mentioned USIU-Africa in an article titled “KCA University basketball team stun Ulinzi stars in their Kenya basketball league match.”

Upcoming Events

VC’s Convocation: Monday, September 17 @10.30am, Auditorium
WSCUC Accreditation Visit: Tuesday, September 18 - Thursday, September 20
Freida Brown Day 2018: Friday, September 21
Graduation Dinner 2018: Thursday, September 27 @6pm, Radisson Blu
40th Commencement Ceremony: Saturday, September 29