



ATTENTION: JOURNALIST AND NEWS EDITORS

VUT Council Charts a New Era of Governance, Transformation and Stability

Vanderbijlpark, 28 October 2025 – The Vaal University of Technology (VUT) has entered a new chapter in its governance journey with the constitution of its new University Council, in accordance with the Higher Education Act (Act 101 of 1997, as amended) and the VUT Institutional Statute. This milestone reflects the University's continued commitment to accountability, transformation, and sound governance.

Formally constituted on 27 September 2025, the new Council held its inaugural meeting on 24 October 2025 under the leadership of Professor Mandla Radebe (Chairperson) and Ms Jackie Manche (Deputy Chairperson). The Council comprises external members appointed by the Minister of Higher Education, Council appointees, and representatives from the Senate, Convocation, support staff and academic staff, and Student Representative Council (SRC).

Guided by Strategy 2033+, the University's long-term blueprint for sustainable transformation and institutional excellence, the Council reaffirmed that all its work will continue to be underpinned by this strategy. Over the next four years (2025–2029), Council's focus will be to consolidate governance systems, strengthen academic excellence, deepen community partnerships, and accelerate innovation and digital transformation in alignment with national development priorities.

During its deliberations, Council also received reports regarding interest groups in the region that have expressed views on matters related to procurement and local participation. Council reiterated its commitment to advancing local economic empowerment and inclusive development, in collaboration with all legitimate stakeholders from the region.

However, Council expressed deep concern over recent incidents that have sought to undermine these legitimate processes. It condemns, in the strongest possible terms, any acts of intimidation or threats against University staff members. Equally, it denounces disruptions to University operations by individuals or groups purporting to represent stakeholders of the institution. In this light, Council has urged Management to take all necessary measures to safeguard staff and University property while maintaining the stability and integrity of operations.

It was noted that Council had previously approved a Procurement Policy, accompanied by the Transformation Imperatives, both of which are designed to deepen the University's

contribution to local and regional development through transparent, compliant, and empowering procurement practices. The newly constituted Council remains steadfast in advancing this transformative agenda, ensuring that the benefits of economic participation reach the communities within the Vaal region.

Council further emphasised that while it values the contributions of institutional forums, representative structures, and external stakeholders, all engagements must occur within the framework of established governance processes and in accordance with the University's Statute and policies. Council remains open to constructive dialogue through appropriate channels, guided by a shared commitment to advance the interests of both VUT and the broader region it serves.

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Council of the Vaal University of Technology

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