Dean of Students’ forum meeting held at Muni University

The members of the Executive Committee of the Uganda Deans of Students’ Forum held its 16th meeting at Muni University on Friday 23rd February, 2018.

The meeting that took place at the university Council hall was attended by Dean of students from eight universities that included, Nkumba University, Makerere University, Kampala International University, Mountains of the Moon University, Kampala University, kumi University, Busitema University, and Muni University.
According to the Chairperson of the forum, David Christopher Kasasa, the meeting is rotational from one institution to another where members of the forum usually meet to plan for the forum.

Mr Abdul Wahid Ijosiga, the Head Human Resource Unit who was representing the Vice Chancellor welcomed the team to Muni University and thanked the Chairperson for selecting Muni University for the 16th meeting to be held adding that the Management is open to receive requests for such meetings as it’s a way of making people appreciate Muni University. He conveyed greetings from the University Vice Chancellor professor Christine Dranzoa and the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs, Associate Professor Anguma Simon Katrini who are away on duty.

He said the choice of forming a forum for Dean of students is a matter that will go down in history in appreciating students related issues in universities.

Makerere University has made history in understanding students’ challenges that the rest of the universities will borrow leaf from in as far as understanding the challenges students face is concerned and how such challenges can be handled.

He urged the Deans to proactively envisage the students concerns than having to address the symptoms, he further advised them to develop unique forums that make the students appreciate and love their country and re-engineer packages that can instill a sense of hope in the students.

“The nature of students is greatly changing, universities are receiving extremely young graduates to the extent of others having baby characters, there’s need to embark in to a research to understand the behavior of the young students” he noted.
The chair of the forum thanked Mr Wahid for his remarks which he said had energized the forum and invited him to give a motivational talk in their next forum meeting.

The team that was received by the University Dean of Students Madam Amandru Stella Wawa and the University Secretary/ Accounting Officer Rev Fr. Odubukker Picho Epiphany at his office, were taken for a tour of the university before convening for their meeting.

**Muni University Department of Nursing Sciences receives 18 Laptops.**

Visiting Assistant Lecturer in Nursing Casey Jones, RN MS CNS worked with a committee of the Pioneer Nursing Student Class and faculty in the Muni Department of Nursing to secure a Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP) Grant. The grant was titled "Technology in the Hands of Nursing Students" and focused on the procurement of 18 laptop computers.

As a result on Friday 2\textsuperscript{nd} February 2018, 18 laptops were received from Danish Hope, an NGO that works on Civil Society projects in Jinja. Fundraising for the project was completed through the PCPP website run by Peace Corps, Washington USA. Funds were provided after Assistant Lecturer Casey toured at five universities in the United States, lecturing about the development of Muni University’s new Bachelor of Nursing Science and his role as a Global Health Service Partnership Volunteer.

On February 10, 2018 the final exercise of the grant will be realized with a training course in Microsoft Office for the Pioneer Class of Nursing Students to be held at Muni University. The course will be taught by Peace Corps Volunteer Samantha
Strimling and her counterpart Robert Musisi, who both work with Bugadde SACCO in Iganga.

**Seminar held on Moodle e-learning.**

On Monday 12\textsuperscript{th} February 2018 a half day seminar was conducted on Moodle E-learning for members of Management of Muni University. The purpose of the seminar was to review; the vision and current status of the Blended Learning (BL) project, ownership through current participation of top MU administrators and other stakeholders and strategies for managing stakeholder ownership for a successful implementation of the BL project.

Muni University through ADB V HEST project received funding to support E-learning at the university, consequently Virtual University of Uganda and Muni University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support and improve E-learning capacity of the University.

**Male Circumcision exercise conducted at Muni University**

The office of the Dean of students Muni University in conjunction with the University Clinic and Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) Arua organized for a safe male circumcision exercise at Muni University.

The exercise that lasted for one week from Friday 2\textsuperscript{nd} February to 9\textsuperscript{th} February 2018 targeted students, staff and neighboring community from 10 years of age and above.

Over 50 males were circumcised during the exercise of which 26 were students of Muni University.

According to Mr. Robert Agondoa a clinician at the University clinic, circumcision is very important because about 60% of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD)
spread is reduced through circumcision. It also improves cleanliness as some people do not thoroughly clean themselves while bathing.

He cited the exercise as an opportunity for students who could not have had time to go to the main hospital or other external clinics for circumcision, besides Muni University has a good facility and available personality for conducting the exercise.

The circumcision kits were provided by Infectious Diseases Institute who partnered with the University to conduct the exercise.

**Blood donation exercise at Muni University**

Arua Regional Blood Bank in conjunction with Uganda Red Cross Society organized a half day blood donation exercise at Muni University.

The exercise that was conducted at the University’s freedom square on Thursday 22\(^{nd}\) February attracted Staff and students who generously donated blood.

Afedra Aldo, a year two student of Information Systems (ISM) who was the first to donate blood as soon as the team arrived, passionately donated blood to help save those who lack blood in the hospitals. Aldo revealed that this was his 7\(^{th}\) time to donate blood.

According to Madam Jenny Uyikunyiga, an enrolled Nurse in Arua Regional Blood Bank, all regional blood banks move to institutions after every 4 months because students usually highly participate in blood donations and it is easier for them to donate blood if the services are brought nearer to them due to their busy schedules.
She says it is important for the people to donate blood because there’s high need for blood at the hospitals as it helps save lives.

She said last week when they organized a blood donation exercise in the neighboring Euata Village, Many students from Muni University who live in the hostels around donated blood.