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**MAIDEN VICE-CHANCELLOR'S MONTHLY REPORT TO SENATE: 214TH
MEETING OF SENATE, SENATE CHAMBER 26TH JANUARY 2022**

1. INTRODUCTION

I am glad to welcome you all back to the business of the University, after the Yuletide, with gratitude to God for seeing us into the new year. This report is actuated by my decision to now keep Senate informed, at its monthly meetings, of significant developments in the University, regarding the five pillars of the *project 200* of my administration: Academic Excellence; Productive Community Service; Administrative Reforms; Discipline; and Advancements; otherwise known as *ACADA* Strategy. Henceforth, Vice-Chancellor's Reports will be presented to Senate, without prejudice, to its usual business.

In the sections that follow, significant recent developments in the University, along the lines of the *ACADA* strategy, are presented.

2. THE NEED FOR APPROPRIATE TIME MANAGEMENT

The effective use of time is important for us as humans whose transitory existence is abundantly known. It is equally important for us as an institution. Time is one precious element which may not be treated as a commodity. The old adage says "time flies". In idleness or industry, time keeps moving on. It then means that the staff and students of any institution interested in thriving and excelling in the very competitive 21st century must understand the irrevocable nature of time dynamics. This affects the way we conceive the times for work, for recreation and for rest. The blend must be complementary. In practical terms, the staff and students of Nnamdi Azikiwe University are expected to have a renewed respect or consciousness for time management in our bid to respond to the threefold mandate of the university – teaching, research and community service. All our achievements, inventions, teaching and learning, our global ranking and institutional respect depend on how we manage time. Time is key for all: staff and students.

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- Let lecturers, non-teaching staff and students respect the times for work. Lecturers should be sure of the information or content which they serve the students.
 - It is a systemic impiety to learn that some lecturers are known both by colleagues and students to show up when they like, while some waste lecture periods on frivolities, stories, threats to students, jokes and banal stories of personal fame and achievements at the end of which they leave, "fulfilled they have taught the students".

3. COMMITMENT TO *PROJECT 200* AND THE GOALS OF THE UNIVERSITY

It is an obvious sign of immaturity and selfishness when some staff almost always work for, manipulate and struggle merely to impress university authority just for some direct personal or indirect benefits. On account of such mindset, some lecturers who are sometimes saddled with administrative work tend to gradually forget or completely relegate their teaching and research mandates. Even after being relieved of such management or administrative position, they still want to hang around the corridors of power or literally refuse to go back to the classroom. This is not fair to the system. If we have a lot of people with this mindset, how can we build the University of our Dream? Do your best where you work. That is the way every system grows.

Some non-teaching staff abstain from work without explanation or permission. Some leave before the close of work. Some do this in collaboration with their departmental or unit heads. This is possible because of some mutual understanding, rewards and gratifications, affiliations along religious, clannish or ethnic lines. Think of these micro and 'nano indisciplines' when they aggregate from every department and unit into a critical mass of setback for the university. This is how the unhealthy 'it doesn't matter' attitude creeps upon a system and gradually kills the system. It is good to understand that whatever anyone does in a system has an effect on the overall life of the system. I enjoin all staff of the University to develop a sense of commitment and self-motivation towards our *project 200* and thus towards the goals of the University.

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4. HYBRID MODULE FOR THE CEP AND SANDWICH PROGRAMMES

In line with the Senate's resolution to convert the UNIZIK's CEP programme to a hybrid online/on premises programme, pursuant of the *Project 200* mandates, the University has started the deployment of Learning Management Systems (LMS) for CEP and other programs in partnership with

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Q-Verse Learning Limited on which the online segments will be hosted. This will provide online access to courseware and other academic activities such as assignments, quizzes, and reference materials needed by students.

Starting with the CEP and Sandwich programs, lecturers are required to develop courseware such as PowerPoint lecture notes, Course modules, Quizzes and Multichoice questions, activities, and further reading reference links for students' e-learning going forward. A proposed timetable for CEP and Sandwich programs migration to e-learning is shown below: -

Jan 26, 2022:

Official University communication to CEP and Sandwich directorates and their students on the planned migration to the e-learning platforms deployed by Q-Verse by the 3rd week of February 2022.

Jan 28, 2022:

Release of official training timetable for academic staff and ICT support staff on the Learning management System.

Feb 3, 2022:

Official commencement of courseware development training, and use of LMS. This training will be provided over a 2-day period from February 3rd and 4th by Q-verse and sponsored by UNIZIK. Lecturers should commence the development of course modules and upload to the LMS after this training. Other lecturers will be trained over time as needed.

Feb 8, 2022:

CEP and Sandwich are to provide the list of current students for upload on the LMS platforms for CEP/Sandwich for access registration.

Feb 15, 2022:

Commencement of students' registration on LMS for access to uploaded courseware, assignments, quizzes, MCQs, etc. Students to start using the deployed LMS as soon as they complete registration.

5. ENCOURAGEMENT OF PUBLICATIONS IN HIGH IMPACT JOURNALS

Towards the end of last year I requested the submission of journal articles published in high impact journals. I was very encouraged with what I saw and I sent individual and collective words of appreciation to different authors.

The most deserving publications are currently being serialised in the university website under a new column called "Press Stop".

In addition to this, we will, for a start, sponsor the publication of six to twelve journal articles (not reviews) **accepted** for publication in open access Journals with Thompson Reuters impact factor of 5 and above starting from the month of March, 2022. Preference will be given to higher scores.

6. UPDATE OF THE UNIVERSITY WEBSITE

The University Website is wearing a new look, thanks to the good skills of the software development unit of the MICTU. I must specifically appreciate Engr. Ekene Ezeasor, the head of the software unit for his overall effort in pushing forward the boundaries of the software department.

However, the value of a website is determined by the amount of content it provides not only the aesthetics. Currently, most of the departmental, faculty, directorate and unit WebPages are empty.

I implore all the HODs to work with the MICTU officers, as well as the ICT officers in their departments and faculties to populate their WebPages with appropriate information and also regularly update their pages with events and breakthroughs.

We shall continually monitor the currency of contents in each webpage and the top three departments with the most up to date WebPages shall receive awards as follows:

- One hundred thousand naira (₦100,000) for the first position,
- fifty thousand naira (₦50,000) for second position
- Twenty thousand naira (₦20,000) for the third position.

These awards shall be given to the winners in **May, 2022** and scoring shall start from the third week of February, 2022.

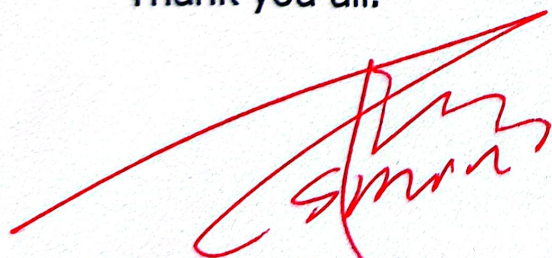
7. BERTHING OF OUR CENTRAL INFORMATION REFERENCING AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

It is no longer news that we have now a Central Information Referencing and Management System (CIRMS). We have used it for our staff appraisal and it has helped us back up our files without knowing it. We will improve upon it such that in future, even external assessments will be a digital process.

8. CONCLUSION

Deans, Heads of Departments and units, may we all sit up and rise to the demands of the high offices we occupy. Endeavour to stick to what is right while upholding justice and fairness for all under your charge. Avoid selective justice and unnecessary vindictiveness. Let our students and others learn from our exemplary leadership skills. I want to encourage all who have been doing so without being acknowledged, privately or publicly. Let our students be proud of us and our institution. Evolve initiatives and demand such from those who work with you. Nobody knows it all. Be a team player and this is not just for your curriculum vitae. Being in charge does not automatically make you in charge of every knowledge. Consult wisely and widely without losing focus of what is best for your environment or office. Be guided by good will and common good. Do not just work hard; work smart also. Make out time to rest since it affects productivity. There is so much stress and distress in the land. So, be wise in the way you spend your health since the price on it is of immense value. Help and encourage the weaker ones among us including our fresh students. Help to put them through and do so patiently. The laws guiding the behaviour of staff and students remain in place. Let us all put our hands and heads together as we pursue the visions of our *Project 200*.

Thank you all.



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