



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**Views of the Government of the  
Federal Republic of Nigeria  
on the  
Visitation Report into the Affairs of the  
Federal University of Technology, Owerri  
(2016 - 2020)**

DECEMBER, 2022

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**WHITE PAPER ON THE REPORT OF THE VISITATION PANEL INTO  
THE AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI  
(2016-2020)**



**ARRANGEMENT OF PARAGRAPHS**

*Paragraph :*

1. Publication of Federal Government White Paper on the Report of the Visitation Panel into the Affairs of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (2016-2020).

2. Citation.

SCHEDULE

**WHITE PAPER ON THE REPORT OF THE VISITATION PANEL INTO  
THE AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY,  
OWERRI (2016-2020)**

1. The Federal Government White Paper on the Report of the Visitation Panel into the affairs of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (2016-2020) as provided in the schedule to this Notice is hereby published in the Federal Government Gazette.

Publication  
of Federal  
Government  
White Paper  
on the  
Report of  
the Visitation  
Panel into  
the affairs of  
the Federal  
University of  
Technology,  
Owerri  
(2016-2020).

2. This Notice may be cited as the “White Paper on the Report of the Visitation Panel into the affairs of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (2016-2020)“.

Citation.

(vi) determine the relationship between the University and the various statutory bodies it interacts with according to its law for the purpose of supervision, planning, finance, discipline, guidance and any other relationship (i.e. Governing Council, NUC, and the Federal Ministry of Education (FME));

(vii) examine the law establishing the University including the relationship between the various internal organs, units and offices, and indicate the ways the law has been observed by the competent authorities, and also suggest any modifications to the law;

(viii) trace the historical evolution of the University and take stock of its net achievements and problems as well as its style and direction;

(ix) examine the general security in the University and how the University has dealt with it, and recommend appropriate measures ; and

(x) examine the processes and structures of discipline of students in each university in line with due process of the rule of law.

1.3. Details of the Findings/Observations and Recommendations of the Visitation Panel, as well as the comments indicating recommendations accepted, noted or rejected by the Visitor are contained in a tabular format in sections 2 - 11 of this gazette. The highlights of the Visitor's directives include:

(i) Governing Council should not interfere in the day-to-day activities of the University;

(ii) Management should ensure that workers observe the standard 8.00a.m - 4.00p.m of ficial working hours ;

(iii) the University should abide by extant financial regulations and circulars;

(iv) the University Management should develop and strengthen the capacity of those engaged in the management of projects ;

(v) FUTO Management should adhere strictly to the federal character policy in its employment of staff;

(vi) the University Management should organize orientation programmes for staff and students on examination malpractices, illegal collection of money from students, dishonesty, etc;

(vii) FME should support the University Management in resolving the land and water dispute with the Imo State Government;

(viii) the Imo State Government is called upon to rebuild the collapsed bridge; and

(ix) University Management should investigate the causes of widespread impersonation by students during examinations, so as to take necessary action to eliminate/minimize the malpractice.

## TERM OF REFERENCE TWO

*"Look into the leadership quality of the University in terms of the roles of the Governing Council, the Vice Chancellor and other Principal Officers."*

<i>S/No</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Recommendations by the Visitation Panel</i>	<i>Comments by the Visitor</i>
3.1.	GOVERNING COUNCIL	(a) Cordial working relationship among the Principal Officers. However, there was information that some members of the Council were interfering with the business of Management.	The Panel recommends that the University Council should be discouraged from meddling in the day-to-day affairs of the University.	<i>Visitor accepts this recommendation.</i>
3.2.	COUNCIL/ MANAGEMENT	Warm relationship between the 11th Governing Council and Management.	The cordial relationship should be sustained.	<i>Visitor notes this recommendation.</i>
3.3.	COUNCIL/SENATE	Close working relationship with Senate.	The close working relationship to be sustained.	<i>Visitor notes this recommendation.</i>
3.4.	VICE-CHANCELLOR AND OTHER PRINCIPAL OFFICERS	<p>(i) The University was bedeviled by a lot of challenges which the Vice-Chancellor and his team worked tirelessly to tackle.</p> <p>(ii) Semesters were smooth running and prompt after an initial student riot</p> <p>(iii) Infrastructure and development indices were high and many projects started by the Administration were completed.</p> <p>(iv) The various Committees, Deans and HoDs assigned to handle student affairs operated an open door policy.</p> <p>(v) This is particularly true of the Dean of Student Affairs who is always accessible to students.</p>	<p>(i) People-oriented policies and programmes of the current Administration such as medical outreaches, sensitization workshops and hosting the children on Children's Day, should be commended;</p> <p>(ii) The subtle endorsement by Management of lateness to work (assuming work at 9.00am-10.00am instead of 8am and closing at 3.00pm-3.30 pm, instead of 4.00pm) should be discouraged. FUTO should comply with the official working hours of the Nigerian public service.</p>	<p>(i) <i>Visitor notes recommendation (i)</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>Visitor accepts recommendation (ii) and directs Management to enforce.</i></p>

## TERM OF REFERENCE FOUR

*“Investigate the application of funds, particularly the special grants and loans meant for specific projects, in order to determine the status of such projects and their relevance for further funding.”*

S/No	Item	Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel	Recommendations by the Visitation Panel	Comments by the Visitor
5.1.	FUNDING OF THE UNIVERSITY	<p>FUTO is financed by the Federal Government through : Capital Grants, Personnel Cost, Direct Teaching and Laboratory Costs, and Overhead Cost. Other sources of funding include: Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), TETFund Normal and Special Interventions, and NEEDS Assessment Interventions.</p>	<p>The funding levels should be encouraged to support the University in development of much needed infrastructure.</p>	<p><i>Visitor notes this recommendation.</i></p>
5.2.  5.2.1.	<p>APPLICATION OF FUNDS FOR PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION</p>  <p>PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH INTERNALLY GENERATED REVENUE (IGR)</p>	<p>(i) A total of 172 projects were awarded. While 156 projects (91 per cent) were completed, 16 were ongoing, and in various stages of completion.</p> <p>(ii) Management sustained the culture of completing inherited projects, started by previous administrations. The Panel visited the TETFund funded “Construction of Research and Technology Park”, and observed that the funds meant for the project would not complete it.</p> <p>(i) FUTO generates revenue through students’ charges such as acceptance and hostel maintenance fees, as well as for ID cards, ICT, etc. A total of ₦3,558,856,094.75 was generated as IGR within the period of visitation.</p>	<p>(i) FUTO Management deserves commendation for the creativity demonstrated in establishing business ventures and R&amp;D Units in the University;</p> <p>(ii) FUTO Management should revolutionize the model for operating all the IGR-generating and R&amp;D units for improved competitiveness and productivity.</p> <p>(iii) The University Management and Council should develop a robust strategy for the commercialization of R&amp;D output generated by the University.</p>	<p><i>Visitor notes recommendations (i), (ii) and (iii).</i></p>

S/No.	Item	Observations/Findings by the Visitation Panel	Recommendations by the Visitation Panel	Comments by the Visitor
5.2.4.	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) PROJECTS	<p>(ii) The Panel observed that FUTO embarked on diversification of the sources of its IGR through establishment of externally funded projects.</p> <p>(i) The University Research Policy does not adequately address the mechanisms for commercialization of R&amp;D outputs generated by the University.</p> <p>(ii) Three patents were developed as part of R&amp;D outputs. However, commercialization of these patents into goods and/or services has been a challenging task.</p>		
5.3.	DUE PROCESS	<p>(a) Mechanisms/Units were established for ensuring due process in the execution of projects.</p> <p>(b) Operational guidelines and procedures for these units are clearly described in the Handbook of Administrative Procedures (2016 Edition) of FUTO. However, interactions with the Directors of these Units as well as physical inspection of completed and ongoing projects revealed that :</p> <p>(i) FUTO does not follow standard project management procedures in project development, execu-</p>	<p>(i) Management should intensify efforts to develop and strengthen the capacity of those engaged in management of projects. The staff should also be encouraged to engage in continuous professional development.</p> <p>(ii) Management should endeavour to develop a fit-for-purpose Maintenance Policy to help reduce maintenance costs and improve system reliability; and</p> <p>(iii) The Council and University Management should be encouraged to en-</p>	<i>Visitor accepts recommendations (i), (ii) and (iii).</i>



















