

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
VISITATION PANEL**

TO

**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI (FUTO)**

2016-2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 4, Sub-Section (i) of the National Universities Commission Act 1 of 1974, the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, *GCFR*, as the Visitor to Federal Universities, appointed a Visitation Panel to the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO) to undertake a comprehensive review of the activities of the University for the period 2016-2020. The Panel was inaugurated, along with others, on 13th April, 2021.

The Visitation Panel's Modus Operandi involved Call for Memoranda, Courtesy Visits, Meetings, Interactions with Stakeholders, Inspection of Facilities and Activities, Review of Records, Submissions and other relevant documents.

Some of the major Findings/Observations and Recommendations of the Panel are as follows:

- i. The Panel found that some of the recommendations of the last Visitation Panel were either not implemented or partially implemented due to what the University Management described as inadequate funding. Panel recommends that the current administration should implement the remaining Visitor's directives.
- ii. University was bedeviled by numerous challenges including inadequate funding and insecurity which, in spite of the Vice-Chancellor's tireless efforts, adversely affected the operations of the University. Management should be commended for its handling of a difficult situation.
- iii. The University's financial managements were generally in keeping with the laws of the University – an effective budgeting system and good internal audit. However, the University's external Audit Reports were always in arrears. FUTO's management of IGR was not successful during the period in view. The University Management had, on a number of occasions, been invited by Government Anti-Corruption Agencies. Panel's recommendation is that FUTO should be more creative in its management of IGR. And the Institution's Audit Reports must be kept up-to-date.
- iv. On the management of funds, grants and loans for projects, the Panel found that a large proportion of the funds received were from TETFund and NEEDS Assessments Intervention Funds. FUTO's Research Policy does not adequately address the mechanisms for commercialization of R&D outputs and the Institution does not have a maintenance policy. FUTO Management deserves

commendation for the creativity demonstrated in establishing business ventures and R&D Units in the University.

- v. Staffing at FUTO in the academic category is grossly inadequate, both in number and staff spread across all ranks. The University is far from attaining the 35% total number of academic staff in the professorial cadre as stipulated by NUC. FUTO has violated the Federal Character Commission guidelines in its staff recruitment. Panel recommends that the University should adhere strictly to the federal character policy as enshrined in the Federal Character Commission. The Panel recommends that Dr. (Mrs.) Kabuo's case be re-assessed urgently and her promotion backdated to 2016.
- vi. The Governing Council complied with the ACT of the University in its relationship with other organs of the University. there was cordial relationship between the Federal Ministry of Education and the University Management, between University and NUC. Panel recommends that the cordial relationships in the University should be encouraged.
- vii. The Panel found that the existing law is adequate in running the affairs of the University and recommends that there should be no modification to the laws of FUTO as they exist.
- viii. The Federal University of Technology, Owerri, is fulfilling its mandate after 40 years of existence. However, the University is faced with enormous existential challenges, foremost among which are the challenges of inadequate funding and insecurity. Panel recommends that the University authority should prioritize the issue of fencing and handle it, once and for all
- ix. The greatest challenge facing University, apart from inadequate funding, is the challenge of insecurity, due to the absence of a perimeter fencing. Panel recommends that since FUTO's security crisis can only be solved by the erection of a perimeter fencing, the Federal Government should, as a matter of urgency, provide a **Special Grant** or **Refundable Loan** to the University for the purpose of demarcating the boundaries of the University.
- x. The Panel found that the processes of student discipline have been adhered to by Management and commends the University. Panel however recommends that some of the punishments/sanctions are too draconian and should be reviewed.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Preamble

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed forces, Muhammadu Buhari, *GCFR*, represented by the Honourable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu, on Tuesday, 13th April 2021, inaugurated Presidential Visitation Panels to 38 Federal Universities and 4 Inter-University Centres, among them, the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO).

The Honourable Minister in his speech at the inauguration expressed absolute confidence in the membership of the Visitation Panels: “Only credible, knowledgeable and serious individuals were selected for the exercise. Government has total faith and confidence in your ability to conduct the exercise in the most competent, transparent and professional way in line with your reputations as good and reliable citizens of our great country”. A spokesman of the appointees pledged, on behalf of the others, that they would do their utmost best in executing the assignment, and not betray the confidence reposed in them.

The Visitation Panels were mandated to undertake a comprehensive review of the activities of the Universities for two periods: 2011-2015 and 2016-2020. They were given 60 days, from the date of inauguration, to complete and submit their reports.

1.1 Membership

The membership of the Visitation Panel to the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO) was as follows:

- i. Emeritus Prof. Godwin Sogolo -Chairman
- ii. Prof. Kadiri Dugje -Member
- iii. Dr. Elizabeth Odachi Onogwu -Member

- iv. Dr. (Mrs.) Chinyere Elom -Member
- v. Engr. Prof. Ibrahim Ahmed Rufai -Member
- vi. Barr. David Shopeju -Member
- vii. Mr. Sunday B. Essien -Secretary

1.2 Terms of Reference

- i. To inquire into the level of implementation of the white paper on the last visitation report.
- ii. To look into the leadership quality of each University in terms of the roles of Governing Council, the Vice-Chancellors and other Principal Officers.
- iii. To look into the Financial Management of each Institution including Statutory Allocations and Internally Generated Revenue over the recommended period and determine whether it was in compliance with appropriate regulations.
- iv. To 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.
- v. To examine the adequacy of the staff and staff development programs of each University.
- vi. To 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. To 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. To trace the historical evolution of the University and take stock of its net achievement and problems as well as its style and director.
- ix. To examine the general security in the University and how the university has dealt with it and recommended appropriate measures, and
- x. To examine the processes and structures of disciplines of students in each University in line with due process of the rule of law.

1.3 Methodology

The major activities of the Visitation Panel included courtesy visits, meetings, interactions with stakeholders and inspection of facilities and activities. On arrival, at the main campus of the University, the Panel was received by the Vice-Chancellor and members of his Management team and prayers were offered in the Igbo tradition for the success of the mission. Following the meeting with Management, a Secretariat, meeting room and facilities were provided for the Panel's work. The Panel held its first meeting at 11am to work out its strategy and mode of operations, schedule of meetings and interactions, in accordance with the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Visitation Panels, as spelt out by the Federal Ministry of Education. The Panel discussed and clarified each of the Terms of Reference.

1.3.1 Sensitization of the University Community

One of the first major steps taken by the Panel was the sensitisation of the University Community and other stakeholders on the mission of the Visitation. A call for Memoranda, stating the Terms of Reference, was issued by the Panel's Secretary, through the Registrar of the University, to all the organs of the Institution and its environ. The same was sent to all the individual officials and groups that were to interact physically with the Panel.

1.3.2 Courtesy Calls

The Panel paid a Courtesy Call on the Imo State Commissioner of Police and received the Traditional Rulers, representing the Host Communities. Due to the security situation in the state, the Panel could not pay a Courtesy Call on the State Governor, nor on the State Director of the DSS and the Chairman of the Owerri South West Local Government Area.

1.3.3 Meetings and Interactions

The Panel met and interacted with the following individuals and groups, in and outside the University:

- i. Management of the University as a team;
- ii. Vice-Chancellor – Professor F.C. Eze;
- iii. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) – Professor Julius Sunday Orebiyi;
- iv. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Nnenna N. Oti;
- v. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Dev. & Innov.) Prof. Bed C. Anusionwu;
- vi. Registrar - Mr. John Nnabuihe;
- vii. Bursar – Mrs. Helen Onuoha;
- viii. University Librarian – Dr. J. N. Okere;
- ix. Former Chairman of Council – Professor John O. Offem;
- x. Senate of the University;
- xi. Congregation;
- xii. Deans of Schools;

- xiii. Dean of Student Affairs;
- xiv. Directors and other relevant officials;
- xv. Senate of the University;
- xvi. Congregation;
- xvii. Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU);
- xviii. Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU);
- xix. Senior Staff Assoc. of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), and
- xx. Student Union Government (SUG)

Outside the University, the Panel interacted with the following:

- i. The Imo State Police Commissioner of Police;
- ii. Traditional Rulers of the Host Communities;

Due to the severe security situation in Imo State, the Panel was unable to pay a courtesy call on the Executive Governor of the State, nor visit the State Director of DSS and the Chairman of Owerri West Local Government.

1.3.4 Inspection of Facilities and Activities

The Panel inspected the following facilities and activities of the University:

- i. Research and Technology Incubation Park
- ii. Main Auditorium Building
- iii. The University Library
- iv. The University Bookshop
- v. Medical Centre
- vi. The Printing Press
- vii. Lecturers' Offices
- viii. Student Hostels
- ix. Teaching classes in session, and

- x. Staff and students working in laboratories.

1.3.5 Survey of the Opinions of the University Community

The Visitation Panel designed two questionnaires, seeking the opinions of both staff and students) on the affairs of FUTO during the period 2016-2020. The questionnaires (Appendices 1.1 & 1.2) were administered online to the two categories of respondents. Out of a staff population of 4359 in the University, 269 responded which represents about 6.2% response rate. However, out of the 24,398-student population, 1089 (4.5%) responded. While the detailed analysis of the questionnaire is presented in Appendices 1A&B, some issues of interests are highlighted in different Sections of the Report.

1.4 General Environment

The Panel observed that the facilities and surroundings of the University – offices, classrooms, laboratories, student hostels, etc. - were in need of attention. On inquiry, the Panel was informed that the casual staff responsible for the cleaning of the environment had been laid-off and that no replacement had been made.

1.5 Literature

The Panel made use of the following literature and materials for its assignment:

- i. Minutes of Management Meetings;
- ii. Minutes of Senate meetings;
- iii. Minutes of Council Meetings;
- iv. University Calendar Handbook, 2001;
- v. Federal University of Technology Degree No. 13 of July 1986;
- vi. Federal University of Technology Act Cap. 143 Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- vii. Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Degree 11, 1993;
- viii. Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions Amendment) Decree No. 25, 1996;

- ix. Presidential Visitation Panel Report 1999-2004;
- x. Presidential Visitation Panel Report 2005-2010;
- xi. University Annual Reports;
- xii. Report of Council's Implementation of the White Paper on Presidential Visitation Panel (1999);
- xiii. Revised Academic Brief of Federal University of Technology, Owerri;
- xiv. University Strategic Plan, 2016-2021;
- xv. Memoranda and Reports submitted by various Stakeholders, Vice-Chancellors (immediate past & current), Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Management, other University Officials, Deans of Schools, Directors, Heads of Departments, Staff, Students, Host Communities, etc;
- xvi. Questionnaires completed by Staff Respondents, and
- xvii. Questionnaires completed by Student Respondents.

CHAPTER TWO

TERM OF REFERENCE NO.1:

*To Inquire into the Level of Implementation of the White Paper on
the Last Visitation Report.*

NO WHITE PAPER TO IMPLEMENT

CHAPTER THREE

LEADERSHIP QUALITY OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI

TERM OF REFERENCE No. 2:

To look into the Leadership quality of each University in terms of the roles of Governing Councils, the Vice-Chancellors and other Principal Officers:

Preamble

The Governing Council is the Body of the University charged with the responsibility for the general control and superintendence over the policies, finances and properties of the University. While the Council is responsible for policy matters, Management, headed by the Vice-Chancellor, is in charge of the day-to-day operations of the University. Other Principal Officers: Deputy Vice-Chancellors, the Registrar, Bursar and University Librarian are responsible to the Vice-Chancellor.

3.1 Governing Council

3.1.1 Findings and Observations

For the period in question, the Governing Council of FUTO was effective in performing its role of superintending over the policies, finances and properties of the University. The Council held statutory meetings regularly (at least, four times in a year) and special meetings when the need arose. The composition of the Council was in keeping with the extant law of the University – five external members, representing a variety of interests in the Nigerian society. The Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellors (3) are ex-official members of the Council. There are six internal members four of whom are selected from the Senate and two from the Congregation. The Pro-Chancellor presides over the meetings of the Council as well as that of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GPC).

By the law governing the University, the Council is the employer of the staff of the University and is responsible for staff discipline and welfare. It is also responsible for the appointment and removal of all the Principal Officers. While Council supervises the University's Financial Report and Budgets, it has no powers to award contracts. For award of contracts, there are stipulated approval limits: Vice-Chancellor N2.5 million (services) 5.0 million (works). Tender's Board N250 million and Federal Executive Council over N250 million.

The Panel observed that there was cordial relationship among the Principal Officers. While Council related well with Management, there was information that some members of the Council were interfering with the business of Management. The Members were specifically accused of engaging in activities that tended to incite undue radicalism among workers and anti-Management activities.

3.1.2 Recommendations

The Panel recommends that the University Council should be discouraged from meddling in the day-to-day affairs of the University.

3.2 Council/Management

3.2.1 Findings/Observations

The Panel noted that there was a warm relationship between the 11th Governing Council and the Management of the University. There was mutual respect between the two parties as Management consulted Council on all matters within its purview.

3.3 Council/Senate

3.3.1 Findings and Observations

The University Senate, usually made up of eminent Professors and scholars, is charged with the task of superintending over the academic affairs of the University with a view to sustaining quality assurance and promoting the academic development of the University. The 11th Council worked closely with the University Senate to move FUTO forward, without much acrimony or disagreements.

3.5 Vice-Chancellor and other Principal Officers

3.5.1 Findings/Observations

The Vice-Chancellor consistently emphasized that the success of the University was a collective endeavor that cannot be achieved by him alone. The Eze-led Administration had credible and committed Principal Officers who worked with him. On assumption of office in June 2016, the Vice-Chancellor inherited Prof. Okoro Ogbobe as the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) who was later replaced by Prof. Nnenna Oti, and appointed Prof. Julius Sunday Orebiyi as the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration). In 2018, Council created the position of a Deputy Vice-Chancellor; (Research, Development and Innovation) which was occupied by Prof. Bed C. Anusionwu. These appointments were in line with the University tradition that allows the in-coming Vice-Chancellor to appoint his own Deputy Vice-Chancellors. Other principal officers include Mr. John Nnabuihe as Registrar, Mrs. Helen Onuoha and Dr. (Mrs.) Justina Ekere as the Bursar and Librarian, respectively.

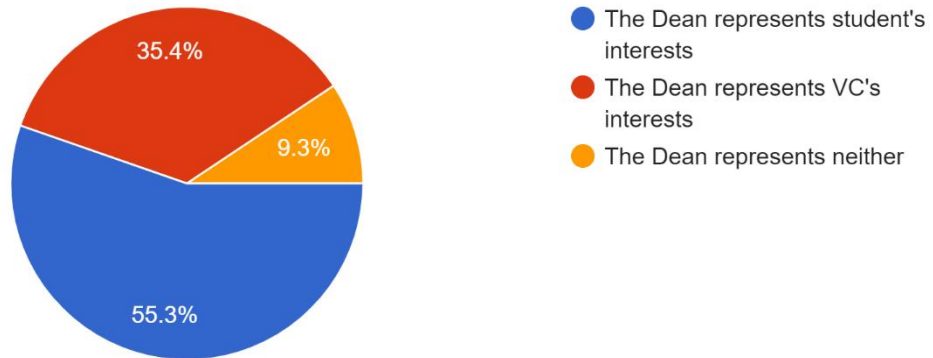
The Panel observed during their interaction with the Vice-Chancellor that:

- i. The University was bedeviled by a lot of challenges but the Vice-Chancellor and his team kept working tirelessly to tackle the challenges;
- ii. Semesters were smooth running and prompt after an initial student riot at the dawn of the tenure of Prof. F.C. Eze;
- iii. Infrastructure and development indices were high and many projects started by the Administration were completed within the tenure of Prof. F.C. Eze.

The various Committees, Deans and HoDs assigned to handle student affairs all operated an open door and a hassle-free policy. This is particularly true of the Dean of Student Affairs who is always accessible to students. This fact was confirmed by the student themselves in a survey conducted by the Panel (Plate 3 A&B).

Which of the following is true about the Dean, Student Affairs?

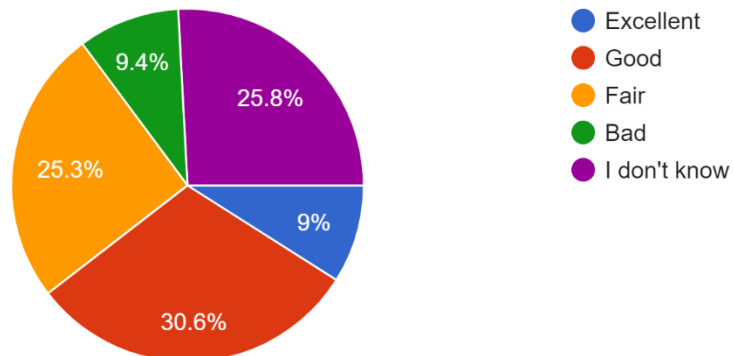
1,007 responses



A)

What has been the level of cooperation and relationship between SUG and Dean, Student Affairs?

1,080 responses



B)

Plate 3: Views of Students about the Dean, Student Affairs

iv. 3.5.2 Recommendations

- i. Even though a more radical and innovative approach is needed to quell the land agitations by the Host Communities, the 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, and
- ii. The subtle endorsement by Management of lateness to work (assuming work at 9 – 10 am instead of 8 am and closing at 3 - 3.30 pm, instead of 4 pm) should be discouraged. FUTO should comply with the official working hours of the Nigerian public service.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINANCIAL MANGEMENT IN FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI

TERM OF REFERENCE NO.3:

To Look into the Financial Management of Each Institution Including Statutory Allocations and Internally Generated Revenue Over 2016-2020 and Determine Whether it was in Compliance with Appropriate Regulations.

4.1 Funding the University

FUTO is a fully funded Federal Government Institution. Therefore, it is under the regulatory supervision of the Federal Government. The supervision is done through the NUC, Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation, Accountant-General of the Federation, Federal Ministry of Finance and, of course, the Federal Ministry of Education. FUTO is financed by the Government through the following mechanisms: Capital Grants, Personnel Costs, Direct Teaching and Laboratory Costs and the Overhead Costs. Other sources of funding include: Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), TETFund (Normal and Special Interventions) and NEEDS Assessment Interventions. These have been the main sources of University funding for the Period 2016–2020.

4.2 Findings/Observations

4.2.1 Capital Grants

Capital Grants are grants meant to finance the infrastructure development of the University. Unfortunately, for FUTO and other Federal Universities, Capital Grants have not been fully received for some years now, as shown in

Table 4.1

Table 4.1: Capital Grants

YEARS	Appropriation,-N	Actual Releases,-N	Shortfall,-N
2016	43,693,149.00	43,693,149.00	-
2017	54,199,469.00	53,049,341.29	1,150,127.71
2018	94,199,469	-	94,199,469.00
2019	101,832,141	98,954,019	2,878,121.98
2020	70,678,641	40,000,000	30,678,641.00
TOTAL	364,602,869	235,696,509	128,906,359.69

4.2.2. Personnel Cost (Appropriation and Release)

The personnel cost released to the University are presented in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Personnel Cost Releases			
YEARS	Appropriation,-N	Actual Releases, N	Difference,-N
2016	6,099,852,704	5,015,434,446	1,084,418,257.88
2017	6,523,906,636	6,017,968,328	505,938,308.12
2018	8,263,512,060	7,020,409,354	1,243,102,705.67
2019	8,902,199,170	8,764,482,776	137,716,393.83
2020	10,103,363,171	7,055,436,967	3,047,926,204.00
TOTAL	39,892,833,741	33,873,731,872	6,019,101,869.50

In the period under review, the Federal Government almost adequately funded Personnel cost, except occasional shortfalls on monthly salaries. Also there has been the nagging issue of delay in the payment of promotion arrears which are usually not captured in the University's Annual Budget. The practice has been to accumulate the promotions arrears as they become due, and forward to the Federal Government for the release of funds. Unfortunately, the arrears have continued to pile up into huge sums, especially since the coming of the IPPIS in February, 2020.

4.2.3 Direct Teaching and Laboratory Costs (DTLC)

In a bid to make sure that teaching and learning were enhanced in the Universities, the Federal Government tried to separate administration overhead from Direct Teaching and Laboratory Cost (DTLC). This fund is usually disbursed to the academic Departments strictly for specified DTLC expenses. DTLC qualifying expenses include laboratory consumables, stationery items for teaching and examinations, field trips and examination expenses, 15% cost of utilities in academic units and academic equipment maintenance. The tables below show the funds received as DTLC for the period under review.

YEARS	Appropriation,-N	Actual Releases,-N	Difference,-N
2016	51,948,366	39,268,710	12,679,655.28
2017	58,014,664	26,985,230	31,029,433.20
2018	58,014,664	33,841,887	24,172,776.72
2019	58,014,664	38,676,442	19,338,221.46
2020	39,694,154	27,892,269	11,801,884.71
TOTAL	265,686,510	166,664,539	99,021,971

YEARS	Appropriation, N	Actual Releases,-N	Difference,-N
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Table 4.4: IGR Inflows and Expenditure			
BUDGETED, ₦		ACTUAL, ₦	EXPENDITURE/ COMMITMENT, ₦
2016-	1,707,754,362	1,938,932,080	- 231,177,718.00
2017-	2,180,495,744	1,994,599,690	185,896,054.00
2018-	2,479,656,536	3,223,105,628	- 743,449,092.00
2019-	2,482,405,771	3,538,772,097	- 1,056,366,326.00
2020-	2,533,415,190	1,054,916,081	1,478,499,109.00
TOTAL-	11,383,727,603	11,750,325,576	-366,597,973

2016	77,922,548	58,903,078	19,019,470.41
2017	87,021,995	40,477,849	46,544,146.08
2018	87,021,995	50,762,830	36,259,165.80
2019	87,021,995	58,014,662	29,007,333.00
2020	59,541,230	43,626,369	15,914,861.12
TOTAL	398,529,765	251,784,789	146,744,976

The details of the TETFund interventions are presented in Appendix 4.1.

4.3 Production of Annual Financial Report

But for the disruption of activities by the Covid-19 Pandemic and consequent lockdown, the year 2020 Audited Financial Statement (Appendices 4.2&3) would have been ready. The 2019 Audited Accounts has been completed, awaiting the Management Report and Council approvals.

4.3.1 Internal Audit

Table 4.5: TETFUND INTERVENTIONS

YEARS	NORMAL INTERVENTION, ₦	SPECIAL INTERVENTION, ₦	EXPENDITURE/ COMMITMENT, ₦
2016		661,769,249	661,769,249.00
2017	810,805,626		810,805,626.30
2018	1,222,147,018		1,222,147,018.25
2019	1,117,057,089		1,117,057,089.00
2020	127,673,100		127,673,100.00
TOTAL	3,277,682,834	661,769,249	3,939,452,083

The University has a functional Internal Audit Unit headed by the Chief Internal Auditor who reports directly to the Bursar. The Unit undertakes pre-payment audit, post-audit, market survey, verification assets, special investigations, inspection of procurement, stock verification, and audit of revenue-generating and self-financing Units. The Audit Division participates in various Committees activities to ensure effective internal control in the University. A summary of receipts, for the period under review, are presented in Appendix 4.4.

4.3.2 External Audit

The University's financial accounting year is usually between 1st January-31st December of every year. During the period under review, the accounts being audited, albeit in arrears. The University Accounts were audited by Jide Nwabueze Osy & Co for the period 1st January 2017 to 31st December, 2017 while James Duru & Co audited the Accounts for the period 1st January, 2018 to 31st December, 2018. As at the time of this Visitation, the audited accounts for 2019 and 2020 were yet to be prepared.

4.3.3. IPPIS

The Integrated Payroll and Personal Information System (IPPIS) was conceptualised by the Federal Government in 2006, but its implementation started in 2019. The purpose of the IPPIS project is to procure, implement and integrate solution that would: improve the effectiveness and efficiency in transactional services, enhance the confidence in payroll costs and budgeting and improve management reporting and information. However, the implementation process has been bedeviled with some problems, ranging from disruption non-payment of salaries, late payment of salaries and loss of data.

4.3.4. University Budget

In line with financial regulations and for effective planning, operations of the University finances were usually preceded by the University annual Budget. This is an operational plan defining the expected income and expenditure for the year. From the funding enumerated above, the following recurrent budgets were made in the period, 2016 –2020.

The Panel observed that:

- i. The University, during the period under review, complied with the financial management of the statutory allocation and other internally generated revenues.
- ii. Audited accounts have always been in arrears. In the period under review audited accounts were prepared up to 2018 thereby having a 2 year back log.

- iii. The IGR has continued to dwindle despite the fact that the University has subsidiaries. It was observed that the subsidiaries were not professional capable of managing the various subsidiaries.
- iv. There has been some improvement in the area of internal auditing however poor management of issues pertaining to retirement of advances still persists.
- v. IPPIS has been implemented but with some problems arising from the implementation.

4.4 Recommendations

The Panel recommends that:

- i. All observations should be worked upon with a view to improving in all the areas of weakness highlighted above.
- ii. The University should intensify its efforts at Internally Generated Revenue collection.
- iii. The IGR projects should be manned by relevant professionals in the respective areas.
- iv. Delayed cash advances retirement should be completely eliminated.
- v. All audited accounts should be prepared and ready as at when due, on a yearly basis.
- vi. Mechanism for implementation of the IPPIS should be improved upon.

CHAPTER FIVE

APPLICATION OF FUNDS, GRANTS AND LOANS FOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS

TERM OF REFERENCE NO. 4:

To Investigate the Application of Funds, particularly Special Grants and Loans, for specific Projects in order to determine the Status of such Projects and their Relevance for Further Funding.

5.1 Funding of the University

FUTO is a fully Government-funded Agency, under the regulatory supervision of the Federal Government. The supervision is done through the NUC, Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation, Accountant-General of the Federation, Federal Ministry of Finance, and the Federal Ministry of Education. FUTO is financed by the Federal Government through the following mechanisms: 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. The details of the inflow of funds through the mechanisms mentioned above have been presented in Chapter 4.

5.2 Application of Funds for Projects Implementation

5.2.1 Findings/Observations

The finding of the Panel was that during the period, 2016-2020, a total of 172 projects were awarded. While 156 projects (91%) were completed, 16 were on-going, and in various stages of completion. The details of these projects are presented in Appendix 5.1.

The Panel observed that the University Administration 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 the funds, meant for the project, would not complete it based on the current realities.

5.2.2 Projects Funded through Internally Generated Revenue (IGR)

FUTO generates revenue through students’ charges such as acceptance and hostel maintenance fees, as well as for ID cards, ICT, etc. The University generated a total of N3, 558,856,094.75 as IGR during 2016-2020, which was used to fund some projects as presented in Table 5.3 and Appendix 5.1

Table 5.3: IGR used to Fund some Projects during 2016-2020

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
534,116,987.52	392,953,794.90	320,174,878.22	334,787,284.61	1,976,823,149.50

As part of the innovations designed to generate IGR, the University strengthened its commercial ventures for improved competitiveness. The business ventures operating in the University include:

- i. FUTO Micro-Finance Bank Limited;
- ii. FUTO Consult Limited;
- iii. FUTO Farms Limited;
- iv. FUTO Bookshop Limited;
- v. FUTO Press Limited;
- vi. FUTO Water Limited, and
- vii. FUTO Guest House Limited.

The Panel observed that the level of IGR generation was still low which might be attributed to several challenges, including ineffective business administration, inadequate seed investment or possibly incompetent leadership of the business ventures. Interactions with some of the employees of these ventures revealed the existence of low motivation and employee morale.

5.2.3 Projects Funded through TETFund Interventions

TETFund interventions constituted a great source of relief to FUTO during the period under review. A total number of 78 projects were executed under the TETFund (Normal and Special Interventions). Some of the landmark projects executed include the “Construction and Completion of 500 Capacity Lecture Theatre for School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology (LOT 3)” and the “Construction and Completion of the Proposed Central Laboratory Complex with Offices and External Works (LOT 1)” completed at N249, 059,511.75 and N249, 856,209.75 respectively. The details of the other projects and their level of completion are provided in Appendix 5.1.

5.2.4 NEEDS Assessment Special Presidential Intervention Fund

Following the 2013 ASUU strike, the Federal Government set up a Committee that looked into the ASUU-FGN Agreement and crucial needs of public Universities in the country. During the period under review, a total of nine projects were executed and funded under the NEEDS Assessment Intervention. In this respect, contracts worth the sum of N139, 351,775.05, N88, 926,075.00 and N259, 479,050.50 were awarded in 2016, 2017 and 2019, respectively. The details of the projects and their level of completion are provided in Appendix 5.1.

5.2.5 Research and Development (R&D) Projects

The Panel observed that FUTO embarked on diversification of the sources of its IGR through establishment of externally funded projects. FUTO attracted competitive grants and established the following World Bank supported Centres of Excellence:

- i. Africa Centre of Excellence for Future Energies and Electrochemical Systems (ACE-FUELS), and
- ii. Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CE-sPESSE).

Other R&D Centres established in different fields as listed below:

- i. Institute for Erosion Studies (IES);
- ii. Centre for Agricultural Research and Extension (CARE);
- iii. Centre for Energy and Power Systems Research (CESPSR);
- iv. Institute of Women, Gender and Development Studies;
- v. Centre for Research and International Development;
- vi. Centre for Public Procurement Research and Training;
- vii. Centre for Nuclear Energy Studies and Training;
- viii. Centre for Human Resource Development, and
- ix. Institute of Environmental Health and Justice.

These Centres were expected not only to engage in research but also to contribute to the University's IGR through commercialization of R&D outputs. Interactions with some of the Directors of the Centres revealed the existence of **capacity constraints** in R&D-related activities and principles. In addition, the University Research Policy does not adequately address the mechanisms for commercialization of R&D outputs generated by the University. It was observed that the University generated three patents as part of R&D outputs. However, commercialization of these patents into goods and/or services has been a challenging task.

5.2.6 Recommendations

The Panel recommends that:

- i. FUTO Management deserves commendation for the creativity demonstrated in establishing business ventures and R&D Units in the University;
- ii. FUTO Management should revolutionize the model for operating all the IGR-generating and R&D units for improved competitiveness and productivity, as the case may be;
- iii. The University Management and Council should develop a robust strategy for the commercialization of R&D output generated by the University.

5.3 Due Process

5.3.1 Findings/Observations

The University has established mechanisms for ensuring due process in the execution of projects. The Units responsible for ensuring Due Process include:

- i. Physical Planning and Development;
- ii. Directorate of Procurement, and
- iii. Estate and Works Department.

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 on-going projects revealed that:

- i. FUTO does not follow standard project management procedures in project development, execution as well as monitoring, evaluation, and control. Consequently, the University experiences low projects' success rates and quality in terms of scope, schedule, and costs;
- ii. FUTO does not have a Maintenance Policy. Therefore, facilities are maintained on a **run-to-failure** basis, and
- iii. It is difficult to monitor and control externally funded projects, especially when the contract is awarded by the funding agency.

5.3.2 Recommendations

The Panel recommends that:

- i. The University Management should intensify efforts to develop and strengthen the capacity of those engaged in the management of projects. The staff should also be encouraged to engage in continuous professional development activities to keep abreast with current trends in the fields;
- ii. The University Management should endeavour to develop a **fit-for-purpose** Maintenance Policy to help reduce maintenance costs and improve system reliability; and
- iii. The Council and University Management should be encouraged to engage with projects donors/sponsors to ensure adherence to Due Process in the implementation of externally funded projects.

CHAPTER SIX

ADEQUACY OF STAFF AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY OWERRI

TERM OF REFERENCE NO.5:

*To Examine the Adequacy of Staff and Staff Development Programmes
in each University*

6.1 Adequacy of Staff

6.1.1 Findings and Observations

FUTO started in 1980 with a student enrolment of 226 and staff strength of 60 comprising 28 academic staff and 32 administrative, technical and other supporting staff. Currently, the student population of the University stands at 23,117 undergraduates and 1,281 post graduate students with 1,513 Academic staff and 2, 846 Administrative, Professional, and Academic support staff. The Federal Government in its effort to ensure academic quality in all institutions of higher learning, FUTO inclusive, in the country has its quality control mechanism policy implemented and enforced by the National University Commission (NUC). Aspects of the policy stipulates a balanced teacher student ratio which all Universities must comply and enforce, the academic staff mix and the balance between academic and non-academic staff and the recently introduced policy that academics of senior lecturer and above must possess a PhD degree.

Table 6.1: FUTO Teacher-Student Ratio

Session	No. of Teachers	NO. Students	Ratio	REMARK
2016/2017	1,309	22,417	1:17	Inadequate
2017/2018	1,435	22,002	1:15	Adequate
2018 /2019	793	12,049	1 :15	Adequate
2019/2020	1,513	23,117	1:15	Inadequate

The survey conducted by the Panel confirms inadequacy of the staff-student ration in the University (Plate 6.1).

12. What is the level of the average staff-student ratio in FUTO?

267 responses

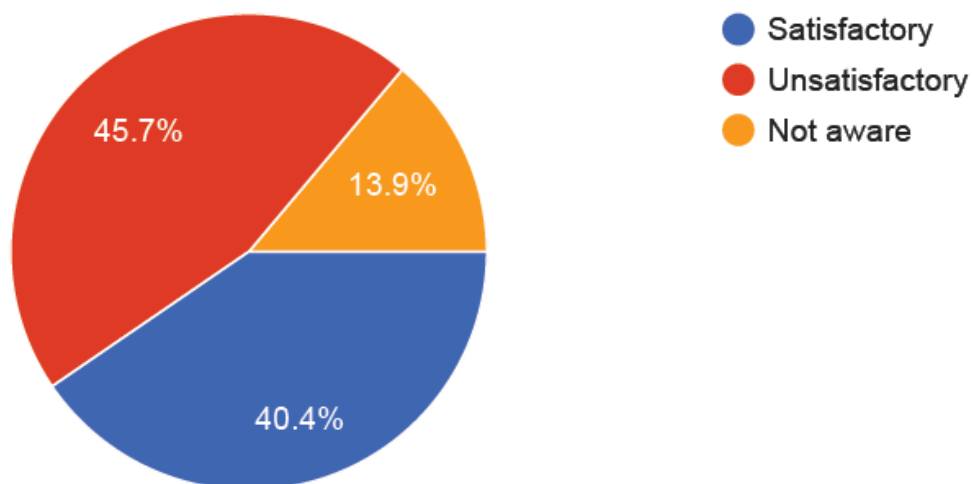


Plate 6.1: Level of staff-student ration in FUTO

7.1.2 Findings/Observations

The Panel observed that:

- i. Staffing at FUTO in the academic category was grossly inadequate, both in number and staff spread across all ranks;
- ii. The administration over the years, made an impressive effort to employ more teachers to remedy the shortage of academic staff as can be seen from the successive improvement in Teacher-Student Ratio;

- iii. The academic staff inadequacy is of varying degree in different Departments of the University;
- iv. FUTO, is far from attaining the 35% total number of academic staff in the professorial cadre as stipulated by NUC;
- v. The Panel took into consideration number of Universities in the country which has made the supply of various categories of qualified academic staff difficult. Furthermore, recruitment of foreign staff has become extremely difficult due to economic and security circumstances in the country, and
- vi. Seventy-two percent (3049) of FUTO’S 4242 staff strength, are from Imo State alone. This clearly indicates that FUTO has violated the Federal Character Commission guidelines in its staff recruitment, as indicated in Figure 6.1 and Appendix 6.6.

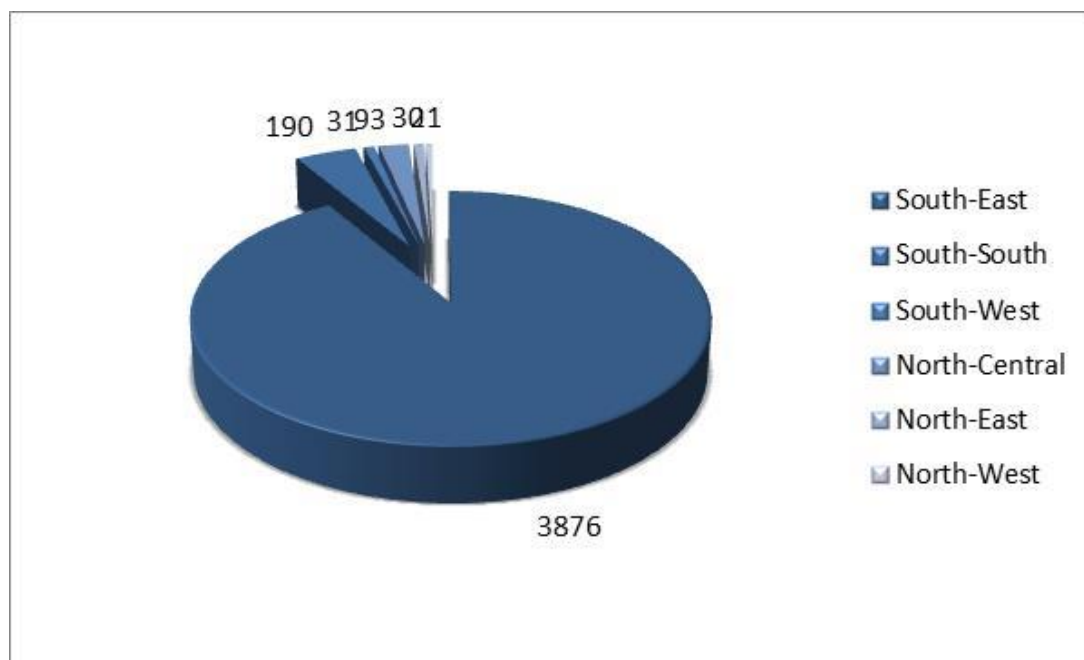


Figure 6.1: Distribution of Staff by Geopolitical Zone

6.1.2 Recommendations

The Panel recommends that:

- i. FUTO should encourage its academic staff to take advantage of available training facilities, fellowships and scholarships to enhance their academic profiles;
- ii. The University should provide special grants to FUTO'S staff for their academic development;
- iii. The Federal Government should assist FUTO in its staff development programmes, and
- iv. FUTO Management should adhere strictly to the federal character policy as enshrined in the Federal Character Commission.

The Panel observed that:

- i. FUTO, has a total of 2,846 made up of Administrative (886), Technical/Professionals, Secretarial staff (440) and Academic support staff (506) spread over the eleven schools and more than sixty-three academic departments and units of the University, they work hand with the academic staff to achieve the objectives of the University as contained in the Act establishing it.
- ii. The University Management had an approved scheme of work, but there was no document on staff establishment stating the number of positions approved for each rank and each cadre.

6.2. Non-Academic Staff

6.2.1 Findings/Observations

The panel observed that:

- iii. FUTO, has a total of 2,846 made up of Administrative (886), Technical/Professionals, Secretarial staff (440) and Academic support staff (506) spread over the eleven schools and more than sixty-three academic departments and

units of the University, they work hand with the academic staff to achieve the objectives of the University as contained in the Act establishing it.

- iv. The University Management had an approved scheme of work, but there was no document on staff establishment stating the number of positions approved for each rank and each cadre.

6.2.2. Recommendations

The panel recommends that:

- i. The University Management should strictly adhere to NUC guidelines in its non-teaching staff mix,
- ii. FUTO Management should be advised strongly to follow Federal Character guidelines in its staff employment,
- iii. There should be a staff auditing in FUTO to cover the period under review.

6.3 Adequacy of Staff Development Programmes

6.3.1 Findings/Observations

The Panel observed that:

(i) The panel observed that, the University Administration placed emphasis on training and development of its staff, many of whom were encouraged by way of fellowships and study leave to obtain higher degree both locally and internationally (Appendix 6.4).

(ii) FUTO Administration implemented the following in promoting staff development:

- (a) Sponsored 111 staff (71M.sc and 40Ph.D) on study fellowships between 2017 and 2020,
- (b) Granted TETFund sponsored research grants to about 22 staff (Appendix 6.5),
- (c) Sponsored about 172 of its staff to attend conferences and workshops.

- (d) Sponsored the exchange components of the University’s links agreements with foreign Universities to improve staff development, and
- (e) Facilitated processes whereby 17 other staff of the University benefitted from conferences/workshops sponsored by the NUC- backed NEEDS Assessment Intervention Programmes,
- (f) Sponsored and awarded study fellowship/leave to about 62 staff in 2017/2018 to go for higher degrees both locally and internationally.

The Panel found that some of the staff sponsored for programmes abroad in Europe and North America (Tables 6.2) failed to return to the University, when contacted, they opted to resign their appointments and refund monies paid to them during the periods of sponsorship.

Table 6.2: Staff Sponsored for Studies Abroad

S/NO.	SCHOOL UNIT	PGD	MSc.	PhD
1	SAAT	-	8	11
2	SEET	-	15	18
3	SOSC	-	18	2
4	IES	-	4	4
5	SMAT	-	11	4
6	SOES	-	2	-
7	SOHT	-	1	-
8	DGS	-	1	-
9	Library	-	1	-
10	Non –Teaching	1	8	3
	TOTAL	1	71	40

6.3.2 Recommendations

The Panel recommends that:

- i. The University should implement a policy whereby graduating students with first class degrees from each school should be granted automatic study fellowships, after NYSC, to proceed for higher degrees,
- ii. FUTO Administration should encourage as many staff as possible to take the advantage of scholarships offered by TETFUND and other donor agencies,
- iii. The University should make a deliberate effort to attract and retain staff by providing a good and conducive working environment, well-furnished offices with toilets and residential facilities,
- iv. FUTO, as a specialised University, should intensify its research activities so as attract more external grants,
- v. The University Administration should increase its budgetary allocations substantially for the benefits of its staff, and
- vi. FUTO should use 10% of its Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) for the next ten years for the development of staff quarters on campus for the benefits of its staff.

6.4 Staff Discipline

6.4.1 Findings/Recommendations:

Staff discipline is an important component of work ethics, without which there can be neither efficiency nor productivity. Therefore, every University has provision for the discipline of staff, academic and non- academic staff. At FUTO, there is a Council/Senate Disciplinary Committee which handles cases of senior members of staff while matters affecting junior staff are handled by Management.

The Panel observed that:

- i. FUTO has joint Council/Senate Senior staff Disciplinary Committee which acts as designated in section 14[1] of the University Law,

- ii. The University also has a Junior Staff Disciplinary Committee which handles disciplinary cases involving Junior staff,
- iii. The Committee followed due process in the cases presented to it, during the period under review; .
- iv. Administrative Panels were set up; they investigated the cases and made recommendations to the Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee.
- v. The Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee considered the reports of the Panels, made recommendations, and presented the outcomes to Council which took the final decisions. (Appendix 6.1).

The Panel received three petitions from members of staff of the University Community, two from members of academic staff and the other one from a non-academic staff. The petitions are summarized and presented below:

i) Dr. Archana Swati Njoku (SP 1107)

Submitted a petition (Appendix 6.2) to the Panel, protesting the decision of the University Management for suspending and demoting her from the rank of Senior Lecturer to that of Lecturer 1, for acts of “Plagiarism, Dishonesty and Gross Misconduct” (see Appendix 8 for the details of Dr. Njoku’s Petition. The Panel invited Dr. Njoku and heard her case. The Panel established that she actually committed offences that can be termed as “Gross Misconduct” but definitely not plagiarism. The Panel’s recommendations are found below.

ii) Dr. (Mrs.) Ngozi O. Kabuo

Submitted a petition (Appendix 6.3) to the Panel claiming that her promotion to the rank of Readership had unduly delayed from 2012 to 2021 (9 years) (See Attachment 9 for the details of her petition). Her allegation was that it was a deliberate act of victimization as her mates and even junior had since been promoted to the rank of Professor. The Panel interacted with Dr. (Mrs.) Kabuo,

her Dean and Head of Department. Her case was well deliberated upon and recommendations have been made below.

iii) Mr. J.C. Ogugua

Wrote a petition to the Panel that his 2007 promotion to Senior Librarian backdated to 2006 when he first presented his papers for consideration. Mr. Ogugua has since been promoted twice and is now Deputy Librarian. The Panel decided that Mr. Ogugua's case was outside the period it was mandated to cover as there was a Visitation Panel in 2011 who he should have petitioned. Moreover, the case completely lacked merit.

Generally on staff discipline, the Panel found that 21 senior staff disciplinary cases were considered, investigated and disciplinary measures taken against them according to the nature of the offences committed. The summary is as follows, Termination of appointment 4, Delay in promotion 2, Reduction in salary 7, compulsory retirement 3, Dismissal 1, Denial of holding of sensitive position 1, Refund of money 1 and Suspension 1 (Appendix 6.1).

6.4.2 Recommendations

The Panel recommends that:

- i. The decision of the Management on the case of Dr. Njoku should stand. However, the letter issued to her from the Registry was wrongly worded as she did not plagiarize. Therefore, the old letter should be withdrawn, and an appropriate letter sent to her.
- ii. The University Management should be more thorough and prompt with staff members' promotion exercise.
- iii. The Registry Department should be cautioned against carelessness when writing important letters that can make or mar a staff's career.

- iv. The undue delay of Dr. (Mrs.) Kabuo is totally unfair and should not be allowed to stand.
- v. The Panel recommends that her case be re-assessed urgently and her promotion backdated to 2016 when the case of her *prima-facie* was first heard. If promoted, Dr. (Mrs.) Kabuo should be paid arrears of her promotion entitlements;
- vi. The University Management should be strongly cautioned against undue delay of the promotions of staff;
- vii. The University Management should, as a matter of urgency, review its feedback mechanism. Lecturers should be informed of the results of their promotion appraisals, as soon as possible;
- viii. For lack of merit, the case of Mr. J.C. Ogugua should be laid to rest, especially since he had been promoted in the subsequent years, and
- ix. The University Management should organize an orientation programmes to staff and students on Examination malpractices, illegal collection of money from students, dishonesty, etc.

6.5 Staff and Student Welfare

6.5.1 Findings/Observations

In every institution, the welfare of its staff and students must be given priority as it promotes hard work, dedication, discipline and commitment. The work force needs to be motivated by providing their needs such as good office accommodation, transportation, healthcare services, and recreational facilities, etc. In FUTO, many provisions are made for the welfare of staff and students to promote their morale, and encourage them to be more productive.

The Panel observed that:

- i. Many of the staff offices in FUTO are without toilets/and or running water, and related facilities;
- ii. A number of senior staff and above share offices with junior ranks;

- iii. There are no offices worthy of the rank of a Professor in FUTO;
- iv. During the period under review, the University introduced staff awards to encourage hard work, commitment and dedication to duty;
- v. Most of FUTO's staff report late to work (9.30 – 10 am), and close earlier (3 – 3.30 pm) than the official time of 4 pm. It would appear that Management unknowingly or subtly endorses impunctuality, and
- vi. Most of the lecture theaters and classrooms are not conducive to teaching/learning.

The survey conducted by the Panel confirmed the absence of conducive teaching and learning environment in the University (Plate 6.1).

What is the level of equipment and furniture provided in laboratories, workshops and classrooms in FUTO?

1,079 responses

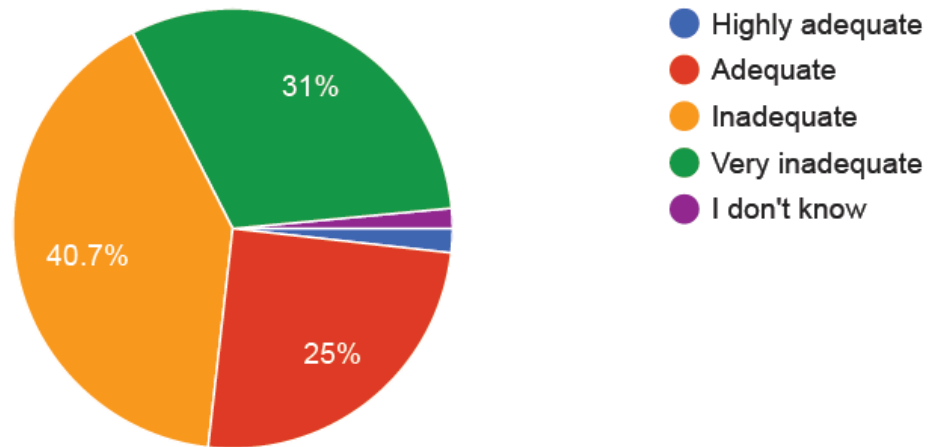


Plate 6.1: Adequacy of Teaching and Learning Facilities

6.5.2 Recommendations

The Panel recommends that:

- i. FUTO should provide good learning environment to both students and staff.
- ii. The Federal Government should give an ultimatum to FUTO to improve its learning and teaching environment, failure which appropriate action should be taken against the University, and
- iii. The University should be encouraged to continue its commendable welfare services to staff and students.

6.6 Expansion of Academic Programmes

6.6.1 Findings/Observations

In 1980, the University started with a student enrolment of 223 in the school of Natural and Applied Sciences (SNAS). As a result of good planning, diligence and teamwork, FUTO has expanded both in student population, staff disposition and academic programmes.

The panel observed that,

- i. The University currently has 11 Schools with over 63 undergraduate programmes. Recently, NUC granted approval for the commencement of the School of Basic Medical Sciences (SBMS);
- ii. Over 91% of FUTO'S programmes were granted full accreditation status in the last Accreditation Exercise, and
- iii. The University has progressed from an initial batch of 67 graduates in 1985/86 to 2,927 graduates in 2018/2019.

6.6.2 Recommendations

The Panel recommends that:

- i. The University Management should be recommended for a job well done and to be encouraged to do more;
- ii. FUTO, should sustain the good working relationship with its staff;

- iii. FUTO Management should improve on the relationship between the University and the Host Communities, and
- iv. The Federal Government should provide Special Grants to FUTO to implements its laudable academic programmes.

6.7. Admissions

6.7.1. Findings/Observations

The Panel observed that:

- i. The University Management consistently followed deadlines given by JAMB in respect of admission throughout the period under review,
- ii. All admissions were based on laid down requirements of five credits, including English and Mathematics,
- iii. FUTO should enlighten and educate members of the University Community who are still unhappy with the admissions quota operated by the University.

6.7.2. Recommendations

- i. FUTO Management should be recommended for adhering to NUC's admissions guidelines throughout the period under review,

CHAPTER SEVEN
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FUTO AND THE VARIOUS STATUTORY
BODIES IT INTERACTS WITH

TERM OF REFERENCE NO. 6:

To 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 (Governing Council, NUC and the Federal Ministry of Education)

Preamble

For a University to operate effectively, the various stakeholders must cooperate and work in harmony from the highest to the lowest - Visitor, Supervising Agencies, Council, Senate, Congregation, etc.

7.1 Role of the Visitor

The law establishing the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO), has the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as the Visitor to the University. In this capacity, he appoints the Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor/Chairman and Members of the Governing Council of the University. The Visitor, institutes a Visitation to the Federal Universities once every five years. The last visit to FUTO covered the period 2006-2010.

The Panel observed that there was compliance with most of the Visitor's directives in the White Paper. The Governing Council of FUTO was directed to investigate further some

disciplinary matters involving eight persons. The Council did as directed. The result was that six out of the eight staff affected were reinstated

7.2 Relationship with the Federal Ministry of Education

7.2.1 Findings/Observations

The Federal University of Technology, Owerri, like all other Federal Universities in the Country, is a Parastatal under the Federal Ministry of Education. However, the University hardly deals directly with the Ministry except in terms of channeling communications on invitations to the Visitor to attend the University Convocation and other important ceremonies. Circulars emanating from the Federal Ministry of Education to the Universities, however, are channeled through the National Universities Commission.

The Panel observed that there was cordial relationship between the Federal Ministry of Education and the University Management.

7.3 Relationship with the National Universities Commission (NUC)

7.3.1 Findings/Observations

The National Universities Commission, as the supervising agency of the University, is responsible for interpreting the application of Federal Government Circulars to the Universities. It is also responsible for quality assurance in terms of approving new academic programmes, designing curriculums and providing Minimum Academic Standards for all programmes. As part of its quality assurance functions, the NUC also conducts Resource Verification for newly approved programmes as well as Accreditation visits to the Universities, from time to time.

The Panel observed that there was good working relationship between FUTO and the National Universities Commission. This was confirmed by the staff of the University in a survey conducted by the Panel (Plate 7.1).

3. To what extent does FUTO comply with guidelines from the National Universities Commission or the Federal Ministry of Education?

264 responses

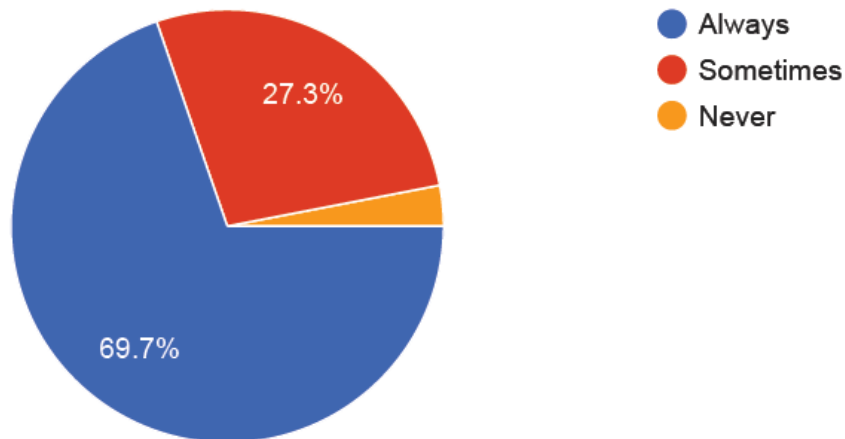


Plate 7.1: Views of Staff on University Compliance with NUC/FME Regulations

7.4 Relationship with the Governing Council

7.4.1 Findings/Observations

The Governing Council is appointed by the Visitor and represents the Government in the University as it performs its functions of superintendence over policies, Finances and Properties of the University. It does not have any direct relationship with the National Universities Commission, as a supervising agency.

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, and other members of the Governing Council, are responsible for superintendence over the policies, finances, and properties of the University. The Council is expected to hold a maximum of four (4) meetings in a year but may call for special meeting when the need arises.

The composition of the Council of FUTO was in keeping with the extant law of the University – five external members, representing a variety of interests in the Nigerian society. The Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (3) are ex-officio members of the Council. There are six internal members four of whom are selected from the Senate and two from the Congregation. The Pro-Chancellor presides over the meetings of the Council as well as that of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (F & GPC) of the Council.

The Panel observed that about 50% of staff do not know the statutory roles of Council in the University as indicated in Plate 7.1.

7. Does the Governing Council check for excesses in FUTO?

265 responses

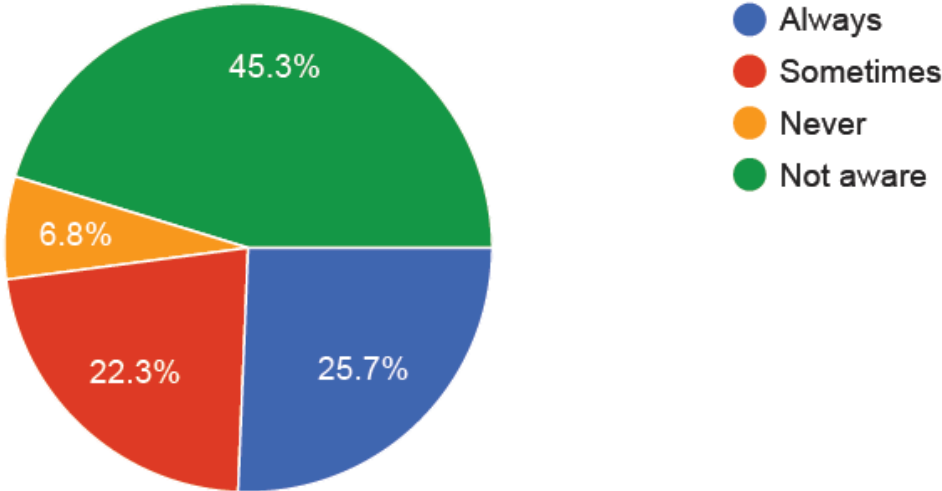


Plate 7.1: Role of Council in the University

7.4.2 Recommendations

The Panel recommends that:

- i. The University Management should sustain the good working relationship with the statutory bodies it interacts with, and
- ii. FUTO should educate its staff on the structure of management of the University and the various organs, including Council.

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE LAW ESTABLISHING FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI

TERM OF REFERENCE NO.7:

To Examine the Law Establishing Federal University of Technology, Owerri 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 Suggest any Modifications to the Law Considered Necessary or Desirable to Enable the University to Better Achieve its Objectives.

8.1 Law Establishing Federal University of Technology, Owerri

8.1.1 Findings/Observations

- i. The processes and steps taken to get the body of laws establishing all the Universities of Technologies in the country and the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO), were marked by many hiccups. The first step was in (1980) when a Provisional Council was established by the then Executive President Alhaji Shehu Aliyu Shagari, *GCFR*, with a mandate to establish and operate a Federal University of Technology in Imo State of Nigeria. This intention was to be followed by the regularisation of the Council and the establishment of the University through the enactment of an appropriate law by the National Assembly. This legislative process was aborted by the military coup in 1983. In July, 1986, however, the Military Government resurrected this noble idea once again by the promulgation of the Federal Universities of Technology, Decree No, 11 of 1986. The Decree provided for the establishment of three Universities of Technology in Nigeria, including FUTO. Allowances were made in it for matters of administration

and discipline of staff and students as well as some measures of protective insulation for the Institution as a statutory body. Recognizing the long gap between the commencement of the University and the law that established it, retroactive/transitional provisions approving its actions and functions are noticeable in this Decree.

- ii. A point came when the need to harmonize the existing law to reflect the ideas of democracy, especially when the Military exited power. Later, the Federal Universities of Technology Decree No. 11 of 1986, evolved to become the Federal Universities of Technology, Act Cap.143 laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990.
- iii. There were other Military Decree (s) of general application to Universities controlled by the Government of the Federation. The Decree(s) had direct bearing on the administration of the universities. They were the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Decree No.55 of 1993, and the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Decree No.25 of 1996.
- iv. These laws amended the composition of the Council of the Universities, redefined the tenure of Vice-Chancellors and the selection process for the appointment of Vice-Chancellor, determined the tenure of Principal Officers, reviewed the retiring age of academic staff in the University and made special provisions relating to the pension of Professors.

There was a further revision of the laws of the Federation of Nigeria in 2004. In this edition, all the laws that had direct bearing with administration in University were harmonized and incorporated in a single body of law cited as the Federal Universities of Technology Act, Cap. F23, Volume 7, laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

The operations of the University are also being guided by the following statutes:

- i. The Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment Act) 2003
- ii. The Federal University of Technology Owerri Standing Order 2006
- iii. The Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Act 2012

8.2 Relationship between Various Internal Organs, Units and Offices

8.2.1 Findings/Observations

The Panel observed that there exists a cordial relationship between the various internal organs, units, and offices in the University. A survey conducted by the Panel attested to the existence of good relationship between various internal organs of the University (Plate 8.1).

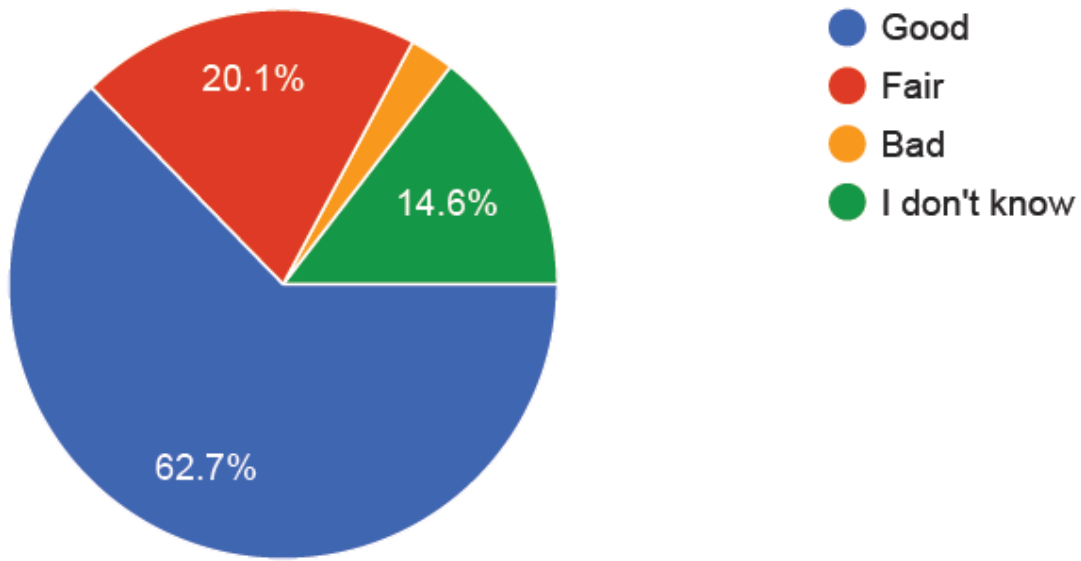


Plate 8.1: Relationship between VC, Principal Officers, and other Internal Organs

8.3 Ways the Law has been Observed by Competent Authorities

8.3.1 Findings/Observations

By the law establishing the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, as in other Federal Universities of Technology of the Federation, the legal framework of the University comprises, in the order of precedence:

- (i) Visitor
- (ii) Chancellor
- (iii) The Pro-Chancellor
- (iv) The Council
- (v) Vice-Chancellor
- (vi) Senate
- (vii) Congregation and
- (viii) Convocation.

The functions of each of the organs and relationships among them are clearly defined in the Act. The Visitor conducts a visitation to the University as often as circumstances may demand but, usually, not less than once every five years. The University authorities have a duty to co-operate always with the Visitation Panel so appointed by the Visitor, in pursuance of the laws; they are to provide necessary facilities and information. The Chancellor, who takes precedence over all other members of the University, presides over all meetings of Convocation held for the conferment of degrees, diplomas and certificates of the University. The Pro-Chancellor presides over all meetings of the Council which is charged with the general control and superintendence over the policies, finances and properties of the University. As a general function, the Vice-Chancellor directs the day-to-day activities of the University; he/she is the Chief Executive Officer/Accounting Officer of the University as well as Chairman of Senate.

The Panel observed that the Vice-Chancellor of FUTO, during the period under review, complied with the existing laws, rules and regulations of the University. As the Chairman of Senate, the highest academic Organ of the University, the Vice-Chancellor sought to

ensure efficiency in research, teaching and learning; in the management of quality assurance, control of student admissions, welfare and discipline of staff and students.

In relation to compliance with the law, the Panel observed that the Administration allowed all the major Organs of the University to discharge their functions unhindered. During the Panel's interactions with the Senate of the University, Congregation, staff and student unions, there was ample freedom of expression and opinions on matters affecting the interest and welfare of various groups as well as the collective interests of the University. In all, the hierarchy of authority/chain of command is respected across the University.

8.3.2 Recommendation

The Panel recommends that the Management of FUTO between 2016-2020 be commended for its compliance and adherence to the provisions of the law establishing the University.

8.4 Consideration of Necessary/Desirable Modifications to Enable FUTO Achieve its Objectives.

8.4.1 Findings/Observations

The last visitation to the University made six recommendations that suggested modifications, some of which were contentious. Most of these areas have been attended to by the University.

The Panel observed that no suggestions were made by stakeholders on any modification of the law governing the University. The University authorities have, to a large extent, fulfilled the mandate of the University in line with the laws establishing it.

A survey conducted by the Panel revealed that 35% of the staff believe that the existing law is adequate in running the affairs of the University. (See Plate 8.2).

18. Can the Act establishing FUTO adequately address the University's current development challenges?

266 responses

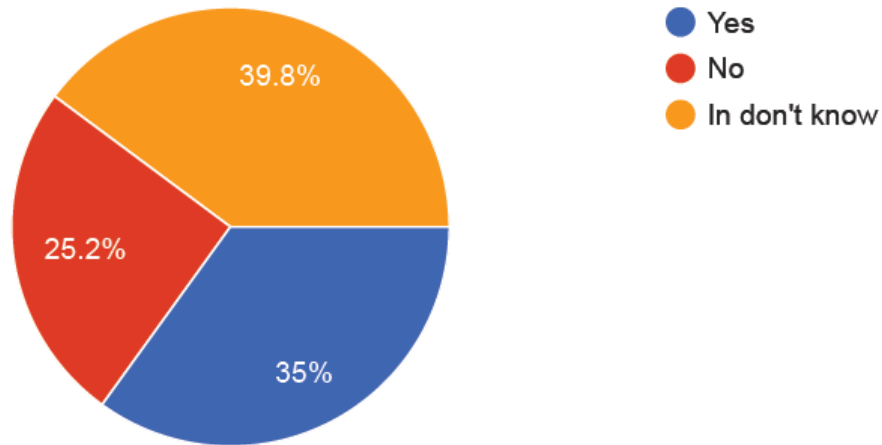


Plate 8.2: Adequacy of the Law in respect of Current Development Challenges

8.4.2 Recommendations

The Panel recommends that there should be no modification to the laws of FUTO as they exist. What the University needs is the correct application of the laws and proper discharge of justice.

CHAPTER NINE
HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY,
OWERRI

TERM OF REFERENCE NO.8:

To Trace the Historical Evolution of the University and take Stock of its Net Achievements and Problems as well as its Style and Sense of Direction and Advise on what Fundamental or Expedient Corrections are needed to enable the University to Achieve the Objectives set for it

9.1 Findings/Observations

9.1.1 Historical Evolution of FUTO

The Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO), started in 1980 at a temporary site (in Owerri Township) with a student enrolment of 225 and staff strength of 60 comprising 28 Academic Staff and 32 administrative, technical and other support staff. Since its inception, the University has grown by leaps and bounds, witnessing substantial expansion in terms of programmes, staff and student population, and infrastructure development.

At present, the student population of the University stands at 23,117 undergraduates and 1,281 Post-graduate students with 1,513 Academic staff and 2,846 Administrative staff, Professional and Academic support staff. Similarly, the University has progressed from an initial batch of 67 graduates in 1985/86 to 2,927 graduates in the 2018/2019 academic year. The University is surrounded by a number of autonomous communities which include; Obinze, Ihiagwa, Umuoma, Eziobodo, Avu, Okolochi, Obibiezena, Emeabiam, Dindi-Ihiagwa, Eziokele and Umuanunu.

9.2 Challenges and Sense of Direction

9.2.1 Findings/Observations

9.2.1.1 Challenges

The challenges that hindered development during the period under review include:

i. Massive encroachment of University land by the Host Communities

Encroachment on University land by the host communities is an existential threat to the University. The encroachment has been rabid, militant in nature and very massive with the tacit support of highly placed persons (both in and out of Government). The problem has seriously distorted the University Master Plan. Concerted efforts have been made by Management and Governing Council over the years to arrest this ugly situation with very minimal success.

The Panel found that FUTO has been in Court with the Imo State Government over an attempt made to excise about 1000 hectares and return to the Host Communities. The Court of Appeal, delivered a judgement in favour of FUTO (Appendix 9.1).

ii. Lack of Perimeter Fence

The absence of Perimeter Fence round the University is a serious problem as indicated above; this problem was caused by lack of funds to execute the project when the University started. This has posed serious problems to the University ranging from security issues (as the University is now a thoroughfare) to massive encroachment on University land. Theft of University properties and other criminal activities are now rampant as there are so many exit routes from the University because it is not fenced. Cattle herders have also discovered the University as a safe haven to rear their cows.

iii. Lack of Staff Accommodation on Campus

More than 95% of staff of the University operate from outside the University with a great majority commuting daily to work from town with its attendant problems. The problem is closely-linked to poor funding and no take-off grant to the University. Efforts in the past to engage private developers through B.O.T. to build residential quarters on campus did not yield the desired result. Currently, there are only 15 (fifteen) residential buildings for junior staff in the whole campus.

iv. Collapse of the Bridge across the Otamiri River

The collapse of the bridge across Otamiri River at Ihiagwa has posed serious problem to the University. The bridge links many of the host communities as well as those shuttling between Obinze (Port-Harcourt Road) and Naze (Aba Road).

This has led to the University being used as alternative route to link these places with the attendant pressure, wear and tear on our internal road network. There is also the problem of securing the entire campus as it is now a thoroughfare. Incidents of theft and other criminal activities have increased recently due to this development.

v. Inadequate Laboratory Equipment/Facilities

Accreditation of academic programmes in the University by the NUC and other professional bodies is a regular event/exercise. Consequently, laboratory equipment/facilities ought to be replaced/refurbished/procured at intervals. However, fund for these are not readily available. The University needs serious intervention in these areas.

vi. Inadequate Hostel Facilities

Presently, the University has eight (8) hostels for her teeming undergraduate and postgraduate students. More than 60% (sixty percent) of the students live in off-campus accommodation/residences/lodges with its security challenges.

vii. Inadequacy of Modern Equipment

Certain equipment for experimental research are lacking. In some cases, existing equipment are obsolete and do not meet current international standards.

viii. Stealing and Vandalisation of Existing Equipment

Due to lack of perimeter fencing, the University is very porous and accessible from everywhere. This has made some equipment procured in the University for Research to be vulnerable to thieves and vandals.

ix. Poor Internet Access

Good internet access is a must for current research activities. Internet access provided by NGREN is not currently working in the University. Members of staff resort to the use of personal Wi-Fi and modern connections for their research activities.

9.2.2 Sense of Direction

As of the time of the Visitation, the 7th Substantive Vice-Chancellor, Prof. F.C. Eze, was completing his tenure. The 8th Substantive Vice-Chancellor, Prof. (Mrs.) Nnena N. Oti was appointed and is due to take over in June, 2021.

Interaction with the in-coming Vice-Chancellor revealed that FUTO is headed in the right direction and its future looks bright. This is because the in-coming Vice-Chancellor has a wealth of experience and she appears well versed in the challenges confronting the University. The mission of the in-coming Vice-Chancellor is “To lead the scientific and technological transformation of our nation through excellence in teaching, research, innovation and community service, producing world class graduates, patents and indigenous solutions to local, national and global problems facing our world.” She envisions FUTO as a university that is:

- i. Full of highly competent, motivated, and inspired staff;
- ii. Brilliant, innovative, where students are eager to learn with sound morals;
- iii. Teacher-ready; to teach and transfer cutting-edge knowledge and skills, conduct relevant problem-solving research, in a conducive environment devoid of strife and rancor;
- iv. A community of highly inspired and gifted workers from cleaners to professors;
- v. A workplace where staff would come to work every day asking, how can I make FUTO better?
- vi. An institution, where students rush to class, sleep in laboratories and are mentored to become the leaders and game changers of tomorrow, and
- vii. A management team that is focused, commands respect, is transparent, accountable, builds trust, and is responsive and responsible.

The Panel is fascinated by the in-coming Vice-Chancellor’s vision for FUTO and optimistic that FUTO is facing a bright future.

The Panel observed that with an efficient Council and Management Team, committed staff and students, a fit-for-purpose Strategic Plan and effective partnerships, the in-coming Vice-Chancellor would be able to facilitate further growth, consolidation, and transformation in the University. This is in agreement with findings from a survey conducted by the Panel, where only 35% of respondents are confident of the Strategic Plan (Plate 9.1).

19. Is the current FUTO's strategic plan adequate?

266 responses

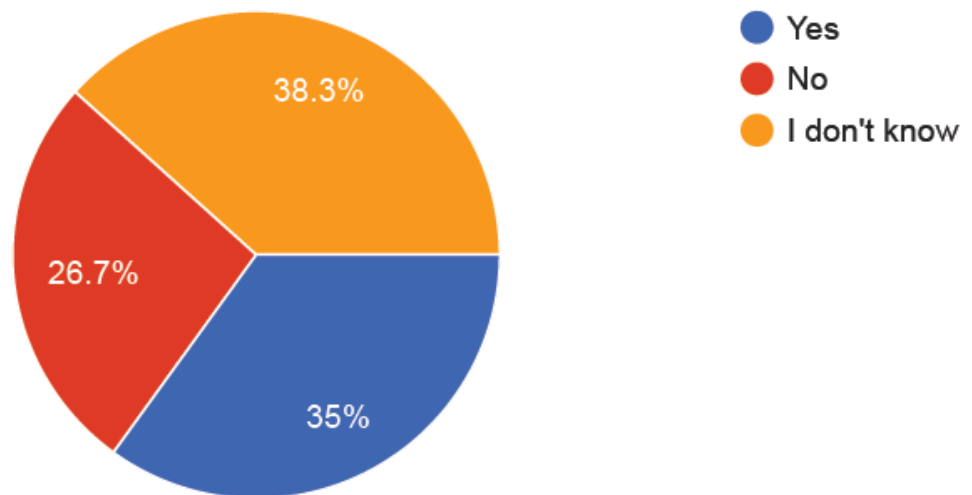


Plate 9.1: Adequacy of FUTO's Strategic Plan

9.2.3 Recommendations

The Panel recommends that:

- i. The University authority should prioritize the issue of fencing and handle it once and for all;
- ii. The Federal Government should consider making provisions for a special “Fencing” grant to the University to quell the insecurity confronting it;

- iii. Council and the University Management should develop creative and innovative approaches to address emerging challenges in the University, and
- iv. NUC and the Federal Ministry of Education should support FUTO in the drive to achieve its goals and objectives.

9.3 Net Achievements

9.3.1 Findings/Observations

The achievements recorded by the University since inception, especially within the period 2016-2020, are better appreciated when taken in the context of the objectives and mandate of the University. The objectives of the University are:

- i) To promote the advancement of learning and to hold out to persons the opportunity of acquiring a higher education in technology;
- ii) To develop and offer academic and professional programmes leading to the award of Diplomas, First Degree, and Higher Degrees which emphasize planning, adaptive and technical skills in Engineering, Science, Agricultural, Medical and professional disciplines, with the aim of producing socially mature men and women with the capability to use and develop new technology;
- iii) To act as agents and catalysts, through post-graduate training, research and innovation, for the effective and economic utilisation, exploitation and conservation of the country's natural and human resources;
- iv) To offer to the general population, as a form of public service, the results of R&D and foster their practical applications;
- v) To establish effective partnerships with relevant stakeholders involved in R&D activities;
- vi) To identify technological problems and needs of the society and proffer solutions to them within the context of the nation's overall national development;

- vii) To provide and promote sound basic training as a foundation for the development of technology, taking cognisance of indigenous cultures and the need to enhance national unity, and
- viii) To undertake any other activities appropriate for a University of Technology of the highest standards.

With the view to achieve the objectives listed above, FUTO has been, periodically, revising its Strategic Plan. The current edition (2016-2021) of the Strategic Plan serves as a road map for achieving goals and objectives of the University during the period under review.

The Visitation Panel observed that:

- i. The Strategic Plan identifies the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of concern to the University, without an analysis of how these could be leveraged upon to develop the Institution;
- ii. The goals and objectives of the University, for the period under review, are not reflected in the Plan;
- iii. The Plan contains some redundant materials. For example, pages 5-16, 21-26 and 29 are not necessary, and
- iv. The mechanism for implementation as well as monitoring, evaluation, and control of the Plan is not clearly presented.

The following are some of the achievements recorded by the University:

i. College of Medicine

The University has obtained approval from the National Universities Commission (NUC) to run Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) programme with effect from the 2020/2021 academic year.

The expansion of academic programmes has truly led to the advancement of knowledge as well as afforded more persons opportunity of acquiring higher education in Engineering, Agriculture, Sciences and Health Sciences. These programmes with emphasis on Technology has led to the graduation of highly skilled young men and women who are

entrepreneurs, creators of wealth/job and not dependent on paid employment. Those working in industries (especially in the oil and gas sectors) both within and outside the country are doing the University proud as we continually receive commendations on the qualities of FUTO's graduates.

ii. Infrastructure Development

The infrastructure development of the permanent site started in 1985, after the full acquisition of the land and appropriate compensations paid to the original land-owners. The development of the permanent site was based on a comprehensive master plan. Some notable projects include the various workshops, School/Departmental buildings, the lecture theatres, mini staff quarters (14 buildings), well tarred internal roads, the Convocation Arena, the Administrative buildings, notably, the magnificent Senate Building which has been renovated, remodeled, and furnished.

iii. Africa Centre of Excellence in future energies and electrochemical systems (ACE-FUELS)

In her sustained efforts to improve research, produce graduates trained with relevant exposure to industries, FUTO competed for and won the Africa Centre of Excellence in Future Energies and Electrochemical Systems (ACE-FUELS). The Centre is grouped among the Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence (ACE) Projects. It is a World Bank initiative in collaboration with governments of participating countries to support Higher Education institutions in specializing in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), Environment, Agriculture, Applied Social Science/Education and Health. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to improve the quality, quantity and development impact of postgraduate education in selected Universities through regional specialisation and collaboration.

iv. Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Procurement, Environment and Social Standards Enhancement (CE-sPESSE)

The Public Procurement Research Centre was established at Federal University of Technology, Owerri, in October 2012 to help in the training of professionals in the area of procurement. This Centre has organized much elaborate training for staff of industries, ministries, departments, and agencies over the years. Currently in 2019, the Federal University of Technology, competed for and won the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Procurement, Environment and Social Standards Enhancement (CE-SPESSSE). This SPESSSE project is implemented by the Federal Government with the assistance of World Bank. The objective of this Centre is to develop sustainable capacity in managing procurement, environment and social safeguards in the public sector. SPESSSE is conceived on the need to bridge the gap between insufficient supply of quality professionals in the procurement, environmental and social sectors and the lack of academic programmes and curriculum in these sectors in the Nigerian University System (NUS).

v. Centre for Waste-to Wealth Research and Development

This Centre was established by the Federal University of Technology, Owerri in 2018 with the objective of managing, recycling and up cycling all kinds of wastes in FUTO, environs and beyond. It is also mandated with carrying out research activities aimed at converting wastes generated within the University into useful products with the long term plan of extension to host communities and the State.

It is of interest that this Centre has successfully converted wastes generated in the University community, especially plastic wastes, into useful products like plastic wares, interlocking blocks and energy nuggets and briquettes. Currently, the Centre is involved in:

- i. Processing mixed wastes into energy nuggets name ‘Ureure Nuggets’ and briquettes for the purpose of energy generation;

- ii. Up cycling of all kinds of wastes (Wood, metals, papers etc) into useful products, and
- iii. Generation of Biogas using wastes.

The Panel found that the Centres of Excellence (ACE-FUELS) and CE-sPESSE) are experiencing financial challenges in implementing their respective projects. This was caused by the fact that the projects sponsor (World Bank) is yet to release the grants to the University. Interactions with the Directors (Project Leaders) revealed that there still exist some issues relating to formal agreements between the World Bank and Nigerian Government.

9.3.2 Recommendations

The Panel recommends that:

- i. The University Management should revise its Strategic Plan so as to address the shortcomings pointed out above;
- ii. NUC and the Central Bank of Nigeria should be mandated to develop and implement policies that facilitate smooth administration and management of externally funded research projects in the Nigerian University System.

CHAPTER TEN
SECURITY SITUATION IN FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY,
OWERRI

TERM OF REFERENCE NO. 9:

To Examine the General Security in the University, how the University has dealt with it and Recommend Appropriate Measures to deal with it.

Preamble

Security has been a key existential challenge to FUTO since 1993 when it first relocated to the permanent site. This hydra-headed problem, which has defied many solutions, has in recent times grown worse. The security situation of FUTO is dismal. Therefore, serious efforts need to be put in place to secure the lives of both students and staff as well as properties of the University.

10.1 Security Situation in FUTO

10.1.1 Findings/Observations

The Visitation Panel, after examining the general present security situation in FUTO observed that:

- i. The Otamiri river bridge at Ihiagwa, linking many of the Host Communities as well as those shuttling between Obinze (Port Harcourt Road) and Naze (Aba Road) collapsed, thus making FUTO the only access to these Communities.
- ii. Consequent upon (i) above, the University has become a thoroughfare, very porous and open to all sorts of light and heavy duty vehicular and human trespasses.

- iii. Item (ii) above bears grave security implications which are closely linked to the increased incidences of theft and the vandalism of the University's properties.
- iv. The absence of a perimeter fence across the University or at least around key areas of the Institution has also contributed in making the Institution a thoroughfare, open to vandalism and mostly, massive encroachment by the Host Communities.
- v. The massive encroachment on FUTO land by its Host Communities has seriously distorted the University's Master Plan.
- vi. There is a portent threat by the Host Community concerning the use and rights of ownership of the Waterfront within the University premises (Appendix 10.1).
- vii. The threat over the rights of ownership of the Waterfront at the heart of the University, as well as the many encroachments are unwarranted as appropriate compensations were paid for land acquired for the development of the University permanent site and Certificate of Occupancy was given to the University for the acquisition.
- viii. The University Campus is usually deserted by 5pm and activities resume as late as 10.00am in the morning. This is because over 95% of the University staff, including the Vice-Chancellor, live outside the University with a majority commuting daily to work from Owerri town. This situation has led to a lack of activities on Campus which has further contributed to the many cases of theft and vandalism of University's properties.
- ix. The Campus is overgrown by weeds and the environment is generally untidy. This is itself is a security threat as snakes and other reptiles inhabiting these grasses pose grave security threat to staff and students.
- x. There are no functional solar lights both on the streets, offices and classroom blocks in the University to aid the security men on night duties.
- xi. The Panel noted a report of an incident of student riot at the beginning of the current Vice Chancellor's tenure in 2017 over an increment in tuition fee. This led to the destruction of properties and the closure of the school for over 5 months. This

situation has long been addressed and peace and calm has since returned to the campus.

The number of hostels for the growing FUTO students' population is inadequate. More than 60% of students live in off-campus accommodation/lodges with its many attendant security challenges. The few hostels on campus lack adequate facilities and are not well secured (Plate 10.1).

Are welfare, sports and motivational facilities adequately provided to students in the University?

1,050 responses

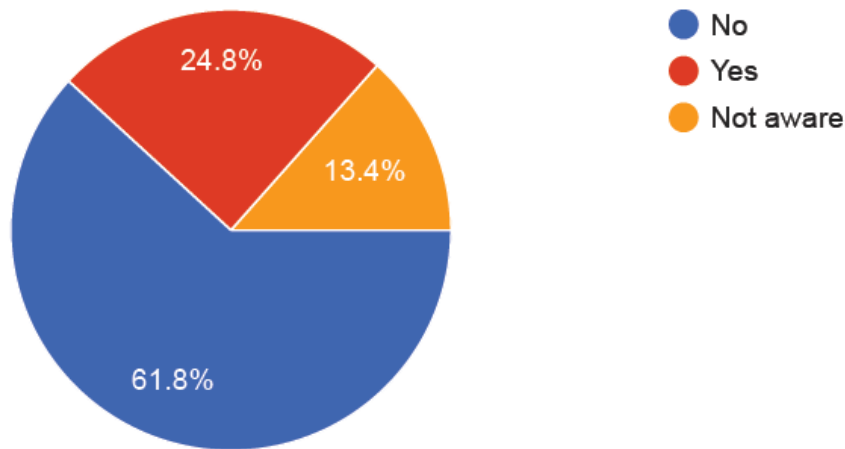


Plate 10.1: Availability of Welfare, Sports and Motivational Facilities

10.2 Efforts to Address Security Challenges on Campus

The internal security apparatus, though, grossly inadequate and under equipped, is doing its best to secure the staff, students and properties of FUTO:

- i. To tackle insecurity on Campus, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. F.C. Eze, acquired 45 new walkie talkies to aid communication amongst security staff;

- ii. Orientation programmes are organized regularly for fresh students and even new members of staff who are educated on the need to conduct themselves in appropriate manners;
- iii. The Orientation Programmes have helped in curbing Cult activities on campus;
- iv. Student Union Government elections are generally peaceful and students are now better behaved;
- v. There are strong institutional mechanisms in place to punish erring staff and students;
- vi. The Vice-Chancellor made an effort in 2018 to fence some sections of the University land via its IGR. However, the youths of the Host Communities, pulled down the erected fence in the Umuanunu-Obinze and Ihiagwa axis all the way to the University's main gate. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. F.C. Eze, claimed that the aborted project cost the University over N50, 000,000.00 (fifty million naira);
- vii. The Vice-Chancellor also reported that a joint Committee of the University Governing Council and Officials of the Imo State Government was looking at the problem of land between the trio of the State Government, the Host Community and FUTO, with a view to finding a lasting solution to the ugly situation, and
- viii. Interaction with the present SUG president attests to the cordiality and accessibility that exist between the students and Management. This position was firmed by the survey conducted by the Visitation Panel (Plate 10.2).

What is the nature of the relationship between FUTO Management and the Student Union Government?

1,058 responses

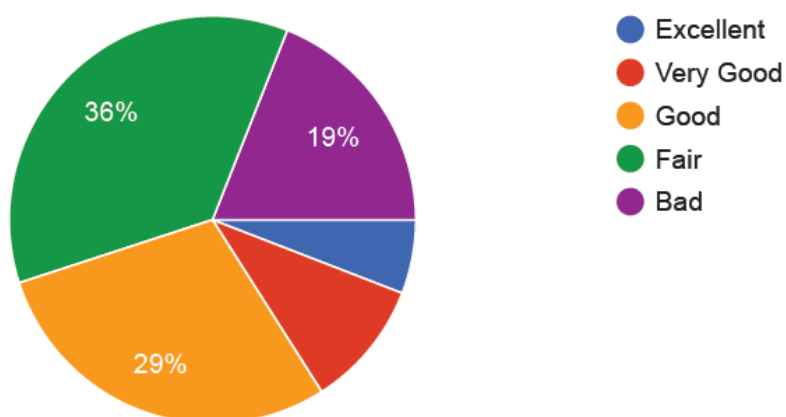


Plate 10.2: Relationship between FUTO Management and SUG

10.3 Security Outfit on Campus

The Security Unit, headed by CSP, Innocent Ndu Odoemenam (Rtd), is made up of about 210 permanent and 126 contract staff, most of whom are newly recruited and still undergoing training. The Unit has two vehicles attached to it: an old Toyota Hilux for patrol and the CSO's official car, in addition to two motorcycles. Most of the security staff bear no arms as they're not licensed to do so. They also possess no communication gadgets (walkie talkies) and other paraphernalia of security. This is because the 45 walkie talkies acquired by the Vice-Chancellor have all broken down.

The Panel observed that there was gross inadequacy of patrol vehicles which forced the CSO to give up his official car to ease the patrol duties of the Mobile Police Force attached to the University.

For an Institution bedeviled by numerous security challenges, the Panel expressed dissatisfaction at the efforts put in place to ensure the safety of lives and properties on campus.

10.4 Cultism on Campus

The Visitation Panel observed that cultism was negligible in the Federal University of Technology, Owerri.

10.5 Relationship with Security Agencies

The Panel established that FUTO has a harmonious relationship with the various security outfits in the State. This cordial relationship continued from the former Administration to the current one, as was obvious from the Panel's courtesy call on the Imo State Commissioner of Police who, himself, confirmed that the Vice-Chancellor was always in touch with him and that he was well informed of the security challenges of the University.

FUTO also has a thriving relationship with the DSS, Civil Defence Corps and the Nigerian Army situated in the neighbouring Obinze.

The relationship between the University and the current Imo State Governor, Sen. Hope Uzodinma is cordial but the same cannot be said of the relationship with the Traditional rulers of the Host Communities.

10.6 Recommendations

After a thorough examination of the general security situation in the University, the Panel recommends that:

- i. The Federal Government should, as a matter of urgency, come to the aid of FUTO to rescue the University from a security crisis that is getting worse by the day;
- ii. Since FUTO's security crisis can only be solved by the erection of a perimeter fencing, the Federal Government should provide a **Special Grant** or **Refundable**

- Loan** to the University for the purpose of demarcating the boundaries of the University;
- iii. FUTO should continue to dialogue and seek the cooperation of the Host Communities, especially their youths, in the quest for a peaceful solution;
 - iv. As a stop gap, FUTO should Fence off the University land in areas that are close to the Host Communities, to reduce the threats of encroachment;
 - v. Also as a stop gap, the University should fence off the student hostel (in the same manners that the FUTO Guest House and Microfinance Bank were fenced) to provide security for the students on campus;
 - vi. FUTO should ensure there are disciplinary measures taken against security staff or indeed any staff caught aiding and abetting the theft or vandalization of University properties, to serve as a deterrent to other potential offenders;
 - vii. Subsequently, FUTO Management should ascertain and demarcate the boundaries of the University;
 - viii. FUTO should resume talks with investors to complete the abandoned Senior Staff quarters on Campus on a BOT arrangement so as to populate the campus on a 24-hour basis;
 - ix. The Federal Government should build more hostels on campus through TETFUND and NEEDS Assessment funds to alleviate the security challenges students have to contend with while living off Campus;
 - x. The University Management should continue to liaise with the State Government to settle the land and water dispute once and for all;
 - xi. FUTO should put pressure on the Imo State Government to rebuild the collapsed bridge;
 - xii. The University Management, using its IGR, should provide security kits and patrol vehicles to the Security Units;
 - xiii. The University should fence the existing student hostels for the security of the students, and

- xiv. FUTO should keep the University campus tidy by ensuring that overgrown grasses are regularly trimmed, and classrooms cleaned.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

PROCESSES AND MECHANISMS FOR THE DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS IN FUTO

TERM OF REFERENCE NO.10:

To Examine the Processes and Structure of the Mechanism for the Discipline of Students in Each University in Order to Ascertain Compliance with Due Process of the Rule of Law.

Preamble

Discipline is an instrument of social upbringing and means of behavioural change. It has a deterrent value for human beings, at all ages and in all circumstances. Everywhere, universities are populated mainly by youths with adventurous tendencies that need to be constantly guarded and channeled to positive ends. Since a university has the responsibility of training students both in character and learning, discipline is considered as one of the primary means of achieving this dual goals.

At FUTO, matters of student discipline are taken seriously. There is a Statutory Student Disciplinary Committee that reports to the Senate of the University.

11.1 Processes and Mechanisms for Discipline of Students

11.1.1 Findings/Observations

The processes and mechanisms for disciplining students at FUTO are clearly described in its Act, CAP. 23 of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which provides for students who breach the law as follows:

I. Discipline of students

Subject to the provision of this section, where it appears to the Vice-Chancellor that any student of the University that has been found guilty of misconduct, the Vice-Chancellor may, without prejudice to any other disciplinary powers conferred on him by the statute or regulations, direct:

- i) That the student shall not, during such period as may be specified in the direction, participate in such activities of the University, or make use of such facilities of the University, as may be so specified; or
 - ii) That the activities of the student shall, during such period as may be specified in the direction, be restricted in such manner as may be so specified; or
 - iii) That the student be rusticated for such period as may be specified in the direction; or
 - iv) That the student be expelled from the University.
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- i. Where a direction is given under the above subsections in respect of any student, that student may within the prescribed period and in the prescribed manner, appeal to the Council, and where such an appeal is brought, the Council shall, after causing such inquiry to be made in the matter as the Council considers just, either confirm or set aside the direction or modify it in such manner as the Council deems fit;
 - ii. The fact that an appeal from a direction is brought in pursuance of subsection (2) of this section shall not affect the operation of the direction while the appeal is pending;
 - iii. The Vice-Chancellor may delegate his powers under this section to a Disciplinary Board consisting of such members of the University as he may nominate;
 - iv. Nothing in this Section shall be construed as preventing the restrictions or termination of a student's activities at the University otherwise than on the ground of misconduct;
 - v. In addition, there is a Senate Disciplinary Committee, in FUTO, charged with the responsibility of looking into all allegations of indiscipline, deviant behaviour, or

- misconduct on the part of any student at the University. If after a preliminary investigation has been concluded by the Chief Security Officer or the School Board, there is a clear case of infringement of the law by any student, the matter is promptly reported to the Vice-Chancellor for appropriate action. The Vice-Chancellor in exercise of his powers may refer the matter to the Senate Committee on Students Discipline for further consideration or straight to Senate for expeditious action;
- vi. There also exists, in FUTO, a Central Examinations Committee, headed by the University Examinations Officer which is charged with periodic conduct of examinations in the University. The Committee also co-ordinates all reports bordering on examination malpractices which are processed through the Vice-Chancellor to Senate for consideration and appropriate action;
 - vii. Each School in the University may also examine cases of indiscipline prepared against any student within the school and forward a report and recommendations on any breach of law to the Vice-Chancellor for action as appropriate;
 - viii. In case of examination malpractice, the examination malpractices forms are administered on the student to personally fill and sign in the hall of the examination where he/she committed the offense for which he/she was caught. At the end of the examination, all such forms would be collated and processed for the attention of the Central Examinations Committee. The Committee would normally invite and grant the accused student a free, unbiased atmosphere as well as unencumbered climate to defend himself/herself of the charges prepared against him or her;
 - ix. At the conclusion of each examinations session, the reports, and recommendations on all thoroughly investigated cases of malpractices would then be processed through the Vice-Chancellor to the Senate for consideration, and
 - x. The Vice-Chancellor may invoke his powers in line with the University laws and regulations to impose sanctions on a student whose case of misconduct or indiscipline has been established beyond all reasonable doubts. Depending on the gravity of the offence, the student may be interdicted, suspended, or expelled from the University in consonance with the laws of the University or the laws of the

nation. Such cases of gross misconduct, impersonation in examination hall, cult membership, rape, robbery, stealing, murder, falsification of certificates for purposes of admission into the University, violence, etc., could attract severe punishment on the culprit.

II. Ascertaining compliance with due process of the rule of law

The Registrar’s Office at FUTO has a comprehensive compilation of the reports of investigations of students’ disciplinary cases covering the period 2016-2020.

The Panel found that 54 students were expelled, during the period under review, for a variety of offences as presented in Table 11.1 and Appendix 11.1.

Table 11.1: Students Expelled from FUTO in 2016/2017-2020/2021.

SESSION	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	TOTAL
NUMBER EXPELLED	34	9	1	-	-	54

The Panel observed that about 57% of the students expelled from the University during the period, were caught with GSM containing information relevant to the examination. Offences for which other students were expelled include “assault on invigilator”; “fighting an invigilator”; and “copying”.

The Panel observed that the documents made available to it by the University did not cover other categories of students against whom verdicts, such as **rustication, exoneration, or warning**, were passed. This may be seen as an official lapse in record keeping in the University. The Panel was, however, informed that a total of 800 students were **rusticated** during the period 2010-2019. The Panel could not

confirm this claim owing to inadequate and/or inaccessibility of the relevant records.

11.1.2 Recommendations

The Panel recommends that:

- i. The University Management should investigate the causes of widespread **impersonation** by students during examinations so as to take necessary action to eliminate/minimize the malpractice.
- ii. The University Management should develop and/or deploy an IT-based Records Management System, capable of generating information, necessary for decision making.