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**REPORT ON THE TWO DAY RETREAT FOR MEMBERS OF AHMADU BELLO
UNIVERSITY GOVERNING COUNCIL FROM MONDAY 25TH TO TUESDAY 26TH
OCTOBER, 2021 AT JULIUS OKOJIE AUDITORIUM, NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES
COMMISSION, ABUJA**

1. The Ahmadu Bello University Governing Council was reconstituted by the Federal Government following the expiration of the tenure of the former Council. The new Council was formally inaugurated by the Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu on 15th July, 2021 at Idris Abdulkadir Auditorium, National Universities Commission, Abuja.
2. The Council, at its first meeting held on 19th and 20th August, 2021, decided that the new members needed to be familiar with the rules and regulations governing the conduct of the Council, University Structure and Governance, Public Procurement, Resource Mobilization and other matters pertaining to their functions vis-à-vis the University system.
3. Accordingly, a two-day Retreat was held on Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th October, 2021 at the Julius Okojie Auditorium, National Universities Commission, Abuja.
4. Nine scholarly papers were presented as follows:
 - a) Understanding University Structure and Governance by Prof. A. A. Rasheed, Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission represented by Dr. Chris Maiyaki, Deputy Executive Secretary (Administration) NUC, Abuja.
 - b) The Academic Brief and Ahmadu Bello University's Strategic Focus (Vision 2062) by Prof. Yahaya Makarfi Ibrahim (Director, Directorate of Academic Planning and Monitoring, ABU, Zaria).
 - c) Public Procurement in the University System by Mal. Mamman Ahmadu, Director General, Bureau for Public Procurement (BPE), Abuja.
 - d) Repositioning the Registry for Service Delivery by Mal. Rabi Samaila, Registrar, ABU, Zaria

- e) Resource Mobilization: The Progress, Prospects and Challenges of Fund Raising in ABU by Prof. Sani Abba Aliyu, Director, Directorate of University Advancement, ABU, Zaria.
- f) The New Frontiers of Learning in Changing World by Prof. Olufemi Peters, Vice Chancellor, National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Abuja.
- g) The Role of Information Technology and Data Management in ABU Administration and Academic Delivery by Prof. Sahalu Junaidu, Ag. Director, Iya Abubakar Institute of Computing and Information Technology, ABU, Zaria.
- h) Principle and Procedures of Public Private Partnership by Mr. Michael Ohiani, Ag. Director-General, Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) Abuja (represented by Dr. Ama Nze).
- i) Reforming the Bursary to meet up with Current Trends by Mal. Mohammed Aminu Bello Bursar, ABU, Zaria.

5. The highlights of the papers and major observations arising from deliberations on them among others are as follows:

S/N	Presentations, Observations and Comments
1.	<p>NUC should intervene on the increasing encroachment of Professional Bodies into the mandate of the Nigerian Universities in order not to incapacitate the University system.</p> <p>There should be a clear demarcation of roles between professional Bodies and the Universities over the training of candidates.</p>
2.	<p>The need for the enforcement of the rule of law and the introduction of innovative strategies and best practices in the governance of the University.</p>
3.	<p>NUC should draw a clear line between the functions of Council and Senate as it affects staff discipline.</p>
4.	<p>The need for University autonomy was stressed.</p>
5.	<p>NUC should recommend to the Federal Government the allocation of 20% of the national budget to the funding of Universities in order to enhance the quality of University Education.</p>
6.	<p>NUC should regulate the proliferation of Universities in order to maintain quality of University education.</p>

48.	Council commended the Management for the comprehensive approach in generating the first ever Academic Brief for the University and the Strategic Plans aimed at getting the University among the top 1,400 Universities by 2026 and subsequently into the top 100 Universities in the world by 2062.
49.	Quality assurance should be entrenched so as to improve the linkage of the University for global competitiveness.
50.	The University ranking criteria information should be uploaded on the web.
51.	Staff ratio: Management should address the structural and fundamental issues.
52.	The University official website should be user-friendly.

6. At the end of the retreat, a communique was arrived at as follows:

- i. Due to the dwindling resources in the Universities in the face of rising costs and expanding needs, there is the need for the Federal Government to significantly increase funding to the Universities considering the huge challenges they face;
- ii. Council noted and encouraged the effort of Management in collaborating with ICRC to attract private financing and encouraged it to continue in that direction to bridge the infrastructure deficits in the University;
- iii. Council noted the great potential and goodwill of ABU's formidable Alumni base, friends and well-wishers in meeting its resource needs and urged the University Management to intensify its efforts towards harnessing these potentials;
- iv. Council noted and commended the effort of Management in the progress made at revitalizing the University Endowment Fund and reconstituting its Board of Trustees and urged the Management to complete the process of its registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC);
- v. Council noted and commended the effort of the University Management towards resource mobilization and urged the Management to convene a round table discussion with the University stakeholders with a view to enhancing its resource mobilisation efforts.
- vi. Council resolved to introduce innovative strategies towards ensuring best practices in the governance of the University;
- vii. Council noted the efforts of the Management in developing, updating and reviewing University administrative documents and manuals and urged that the process be expedited and ensure that when completed, they are widely circulated to all stakeholders;

- viii. Council observed the need for improved service delivery in the University and resolved that the SERVICOM Unit should be strengthened to ensure effective and efficient service delivery;
- ix. To enhance staff productivity, Council noted the need to recognise and honour all hard working staff across all cadres in the University. Similarly, the University should begin to honour all retiring staff who served the University diligently;
- x. Council noted the concerted effort of the Management towards improved quality assurance and urged the Management to remain focused so as to enhance the University's image and global competitiveness;
- xi. Council noted the declining workforce and distortions in staff mix due to the inability of Universities to recruit staff caused by embargo on employment and urged the Federal Government to allow Universities to employ staff into all cadres in accordance with NUC staff ratio;
- xii. Council noted and commended Management for the futuristic approach in developing an Academic Brief for the University and Strategic Plan for achieving the Centenary Vision 2062 which seeks to place the University among the top 100 Universities in the world;
- xiii. Council observed the gradual interference of Professional Bodies with the statutory functions and powers of the various organs of the Universities and urged the NUC to put measures in place to check these excesses;
- xiv. Council noted the increasing need to deploying technology in teaching and learning and urged the Management to pursue vigorously the facilitation of blended learning in collaboration with the NOUN and related agencies;
- xv. Council noted the proposed reforms by the Registrar and Bursar and urged them to develop detailed methodologies and specific timelines for achieving them;
- xvi. Council noted the effort of the University Management in digitising the activities of the Registry and Bursary Departments and urged for speedy completion of the process to enhance service delivery;
- xvii. Council observed the protracted process of review of the Appointments and Promotions Guidelines for Senior and Junior staff respectively and urged that the review be completed by the first quarter of 2022.



Rabi Samaila

Registrar and Secretary to Council

