UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA
UFS UV

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2 December 2016

UFS appoints Prof Francis Petersen as Vice-Chancellor and Rector

The Council of the University of the Free State (UFS) is pleased to announce that it has decided to appoint Prof Francis Petersen as Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the UFS.

Announcing the decision to appoint Prof Petersen today (Friday 2 December 2016) during the quarterly Council meeting on the Bloemfontein Campus, the Chairperson of the UFS Council, Judge Ian van der Merwe, said the university was fortunate to be able to appoint a candidate of such good quality to the position.

Prof Petersen, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Institutional Innovation at the University of Cape Town (UCT), and Prof Lis Lange, Vice-Rector: Academic at the UFS, were in line for the position. The university's Selection Committee expressed equal preference for both and the two candidates were therefore recommended to Council for the position.

"It has been a truly participatory and transparent selection process, which has assisted in the Council being able to make this decision. The higher-education sector has been through a difficult and challenging time during the past few months and the Council is thankful that a leader like Prof Petersen can head the university in 2017 and beyond," said Judge Van der Merwe.

In his statement of intent, which was submitted earlier as part of the application for the post, Prof Petersen indicated that it is important to imagine the UFS's location in South Africa and Africa, to realise the challenges within this context, now and in the future, so as to sharpen the university's focus to become a more inclusive, academic excellent institution, embedded in a culture of innovation. "Therefore, the ideal of academic excellence must be supported by an institutional framework of diversity and inclusivity. The Academic Project should focus on a unique educational experience for every UFS student, the enhancement of student throughput-rate in academic programmes through dedicated academic support, graduate attributes, and curriculum change and renewal," he said. He furthermore stated that research and innovation must focus on impact and international visibility. "It is thus not only the increase in research and innovation output, but the quality and impact thereof."

Prof Petersen was previously the Dean of Engineering and the Built Environment at UCT. He brings to the position of Vice-Chancellor and Rector his extensive experience of management in both the industry and academic sectors. He has been the executive head of strategy at Anglo American Platinum and head of the

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Department of Chemical Engineering at the Cape Technikon (now Cape Peninsula University of Technology). He is a member of the UCT Council, non-executive director on the Board of Pragma Holdings, non-executive director on the Board of the Unlimited Group, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Seedcap (Venture Capital) Trust. Among others, he previously served as member on the Board of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the National Advisory Council on Innovation, and the Council of the Academy of Science of South Africa.

He graduated from Stellenbosch University with a BEng (Chem Eng), MEng (Metal Eng), and PhD (Eng) degrees and completed a short course on Financial Skills for Executive Management. He is a recipient of the Ernest Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Award for research excellence, and was visiting professor at the Cape Technikon and extraordinary professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Stellenbosch University. He is a regular reviewer of journals, and member of a range of editorial boards for international journals.

Prof Petersen is also a registered professional engineer with the Engineering Council of South Africa and a Fellow of both the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, and the South African Academy of Engineers.

Prof Petersen succeeds Prof Jonathan Jansen, who stepped down as Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the UFS on 31 August 2016. An international executive search agency specialising in academic appointments has assisted the UFS Council in its search for top-quality candidates.

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Issued by:	**Lacea Loader** **Director: Communication and Brand Management**
Telephone:	**+27 51 401 2584** **+27 83 645 2454**
E-mail:	**news@ufs.ac.za**
Fax:	**+27 51 444 6393**
Web:	**www.ufs.ac.za**

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2 Desember 2016

UV stel prof Francis Petersen as Visekanselier en Rektor aan

Die Raad van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat (UV) kondig met genoeë aan dat daar besluit is om prof Francis Petersen as Visekanselier en Rektor van die UV aan te stel.

Die Voorsitter van die UV-Raad, regter Ian van der Merwe, wat vandag (Vrydag 2 Desember 2016) die besluit tydens die Raad se kwartaallikse vergadering op die Bloemfontein-kampus aangekondig het om prof Petersen aan te stel, het gesê die universiteit is gelukkig om ’n kandidaat van so ’n hoë gehalte in die pos aan te stel.

Prof Petersen, Adjunkvisekanselier: Institusionele Innovasie aan die Universiteit van Kaapstad (UK), en prof Lis Lange, Viserektor: Akademies aan die UV, is vir die pos oorweeg. Die universiteit se Keurkomitee het gelyke voorkeur vir albei uitgespreek en die twee kandidate is dus by die Raad vir die pos aanbeveel.

“Dit was waarlik ’n deelnemende en deursigtige keuringsproses wat gehelp het dat die universiteit hierdie historiese besluit kon maak. Die hoëronderwyssektor is gedurende die afgelope paar maande deur ’n moeilike en uitdagende tyd en die Raad is dankbaar dat ’n leier soos prof Petersen die universiteit in 2017 en verder kan lei,” het regter Van der Merwe gesê.

In sy verklaring van voorneme wat vroeër as deel van sy aansoek vir die pos ingedien is, het prof Petersen aangedui dat dit belangrik is om die UV se ligging in Suid-Afrika en Afrika in gedagte te hou en om die uitdagings binne hierdie konteks te begryp, nou asook in die toekoms, ten einde die universiteit se fokus om ’n meer inklusiewe, akademies uitnemende instelling te word wat in ’n kultuur van innovering veranker is, te verskerp. “Dus moet die ideaal van akademiese uitnemendheid deur ’n institusionele raamwerk van diversiteit en inklusiwiteit ondersteun word. Die Akademiese Projek moet fokus op ’n unieke opvoedkundige ervaring vir elke UV-student, die verhoging van studenteslaagsyfers in akademiese programme deur middel van toegewyde akademiese ondersteuning, die eienskappe van gegradueerdes, asook kurrikulumverandering en vernuwing,” het hy gesê. Hy het verder verklaar dat navorsing en innovering op impak en internasionale sigbaarheid moet fokus. “Dit gaan dus nie net oor die toename in navorsings- en innovasie-lewering nie, maar ook oor die gehalte en impak daarvan.”

Prof Petersen was voorheen die Dekaan van Ingenieurswese en die Bou-omgewing aan die UK. Hy bring sy uitgebreide ervaring van bestuur in sowel die bedryf- as akademiese sektor na die pos van Visekanselier en Rektor. Hy was die uitvoerende hoof van strategie by Anglo American Platinum en hoof van die Departement Chemiese Ingenieurswese aan die Kaapse Technikon (nou Kaapse Skiereiland-

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Universiteit vir Tegnologie). Hy is ’n lid van die UK-Raad, nie-uitvoerende direkteur in die raad van Pragma Holdings, nie-uitvoerende direkteur in die raad van die Unlimited Groep en Voorsitter van die Raad van Trustees van die Seedcap (Waagkapitaal) Trust. Hy het onder meer voorheen gedien as lid in die raad van die Wetenskaplike en Nywerheidnavorsingsraad, die Nasionale Adviesraad oor Innovasie, asook die raad van die Akademie vir Wetenskap van Suid-Afrika.

Hy het ’n BIng (Chem Ing)-, MIng (Metal Ing)- en ’n PhD (Ing)-graad aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch verwerf en het ’n kortkursus oor Finansiële Vaardighede vir Uitvoerende Bestuur voltooi. Hy het die Ernest Oppenheimer-gedenktrust se toekenning vir navorsingsuitnemendheid ontvang en was besoekende professor aan die Kaapse Technikon, asook buitengewone professor in die Departement Chemiese Ingenieurswese aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch. Hy is ’n gereelde beoordelaar van vaktydskrifte en lid van ’n verskeidenheid redaksiekommissies vir internasionale vaktydskrifte.

Prof Petersen is ook as professionele ingenieur by die Ingenieursraad van Suid-Afrika geregistreer en is ’n genoot van sowel die Suid-Afrikaanse Instituut vir Mynbou en Metallurgie as die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Ingenieurswese.

Prof Petersen volg prof Jonathan Jansen op wat op 31 Augustus 2016 as Visekanselier en Rektor van die UV uitgetree het. ’n Internasionale uitvoerende werwingsagentskap wat in akademiese aanstellings spesialiseer, het die UV-Raad bygestaan in sy soeke na topgehalte kandidate.

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Uitgereik deur:	**Lacea Loader** **Direkteur: Kommunikasie en Handelsmerkbestuur**
Telefoon:	**+27 51 401 2584** **+27 83 645 2454**
E-pos:	**news@ufs.ac.za**
Faks:	**+27 51 444 6393**
Web:	**www.ufs.ac.za**