



## REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Dr Paul F de V Clüver  
Chair of the University Council

Over the past three years, Stellenbosch University has succeeded every year in building systematically and purposefully on the firm foundation laid by the University Council's approval of the document, *A Strategic Framework for the turn of the century and beyond*.

With Vision 2012 drawing to an end, the Overarching Strategic Plan (OSP) that was accepted in 2008 is aimed at giving further effect to the spirit of the Strategic Framework, while at the same time positioning the University for more active participation and relevance in South Africa and in Africa, with due regard for international trends in higher education and in the knowledge economy. With a clear picture of what the University as a tertiary educational institution should look like in 2015, the Management is busy stacking strategic building blocks in a purposeful manner to reach the stated objectives.

There were two decisive Council decisions in the year under review that I regard as crucial for the strategic direction of the University en route to 2015, and even thereafter. The first milestone was in May. Convinced of the distinguishing, visionary thinking contained in the OSP, the University Council provided tangible proof of its confidence in the University Management by reclassifying R320 million from existing funds as seed capital for the starting phase of the OSP. The scope of this ambitious plan will require significantly more funding, but the University can turn to the outside with confidence and credibility to acquire the necessary funds for its strategically important initiatives, as it is ensured of Council's support.

The second milestone was in November 2009, when the University Council approved institutional objectives and priorities that will provide the transformational infrastructure for the OSP. With 2015 as target date, specific objectives were formulated regarding the size and shape of the University, staff and student composition, as well as student success rates that will have a substantial influence on the diversity profile of the University. (See "*Transformation aims*", page 7.)

The OSP determines, among others, that the University will direct its core functions of teaching, research and community interaction in terms of its five selected development themes. With these themes and sustainability as criteria, the faculties submitted successful project proposals in the year under review with which they obtained OSP funding in addition to their annual operating budgets.

In 2009, the Rector and his Management Team showed clearly how the institution can tackle some of the most critical challenges of society through its excellent teaching, research and community interaction, anchored in the knowledge-based OSP projects.

It was reassuring and gladdening to note the growth in the synergy between institutional and faculty objectives in the year under review; how different University processes start to converge to bring about transformation in the institution in the broadest sense; and how a shared vision is starting to join and inspire the campus community.

I wish to congratulate the Rector and the entire senior management team on their courageous leadership in positioning the University significantly differently: different in its historical context; different to what is traditionally expected from tertiary institutions; and significantly different to its peer institutions. A word of thanks also goes to the members of the University Council, for their dedication and insight in supporting the strategic direction of Stellenbosch University and this groundbreaking work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul F de V Clüver'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'P'.

Dr Paul F de V Clüver  
Chair of the University Council

## COUNCIL MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

The Council of Stellenbosch University comprised 30 members in 2009, but as a result of resignations and the expiry of one member's term of office, the membership at the end of the year was 27. Of the initial 30 members, four were executive members, 14 were independent, non-executive members, five were employee representatives, five were appointed by the government and two were student representatives.

Council met five times during the year under review. Stellenbosch University can proudly report that the average rate of attendance of Council meetings was 90%. The lowest rate of attendance was 85%.

## COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL: MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

Council has eight committees that meet at varying intervals – some meet before every Council meeting, while others meet only as the need arises.

The most important committee is the Executive Committee of Council. This Committee, which comprised seven members

in 2009, met six times during the year under review. There are no matters pending on the agenda of the Committee. Matters pending on the agendas of other committees that report to Council via the Executive Committee will eventually appear on the agenda of the Executive Committee – who will then deal with those matters.

DURING 2009, ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WAS AS FOLLOWS:

April	5 members present
June	5 members present
August	6 members present
November	6 members present

- The average rate of attendance for the Executive Committee was 79%.
- On the whole, the meetings of the committees of Council were well attended.
- The average rate of attendance of the committees was 77%.