



FACULTY OF LAW

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The Faculty's undergraduate success rate, which stands at 83,92%, already nearly equals the University's target of 84% for 2015, and the 2015 retention rate target of 88% for the University is already exceeded by the Faculty's figure of 91,21%.

Various initiatives were launched during 2010 to maintain these levels of achievement. Besides preparing the ground for the reinstatement of an extended degree programme, a comprehensive plan for the development of writing skills in the LLB programme was approved. This plan entails, among other things, the development of a faculty writing guide, the identification and coordination of writing-intensive modules, the implementation of writing credits, the extension of thesis options and the consideration of the contents of modules concerning legal skills. The doubling in the number of students that will be able to undergo clinical training at the Legal Aid Clinic thanks to extensions to the Old Lückhoff (Kleine Bosch) premises will make a significant contribution to the rounding off of our students' training in terms of the demands of the legal profession and the business community.

Significant for the ensuring of student success – a goal of the HOPE Project – is the financial assistance being received from two former students, Giuseppe and Kathleen Ciucci. R50 000 per year for two years is being granted for a support programme, directed by a newly appointed student support coordinator, for students in their first year struggling with modules that carry a high risk of academic failure. A further grant from the Ciucci family, namely to the existing partnership between the Faculty and the Stonehage Charitable Trust in respect of the Stonehage First-year Bursary Scheme, makes R440 000 available for the recruitment of new students from the designated groups. With funding from the Ciucci family, a pilot project to step up the recruitment efforts is going to be undertaken in both the Stellenbosch and the Worcester-Robertson areas. The existing measures for financial support to students by way of the Stonehage Group Scholarship Scheme (in collaboration with the Link SA Fund for Tertiary Education), the Amicus Fund and the AAL Foundation were consolidated in 2010 through the extension of Amicus Fund activities to London.

Besides outputs in professional journals in the course of 2010, members of the Faculty produced seven books of a high quality. The research culture was further strengthened by means of academic discussions at the departmental level, the presentation of workshops and lecture series, and visits by high-level academic colleagues to the SARChI Chair in Property

Law of Prof Andre van der Walt, to the Oppenheimer Chair in Human Rights of Prof Sandra Liebenberg, and to our academic initiative under the HOPE Project for the combating of poverty. Led by Profs Andre van der Walt and Sandra Liebenberg, this academic initiative is increasing the knowledge regarding the legal aspects of social vulnerability and the relevance of the Constitution to resolving the issues involved; at the same time it is instrumental in broadening the Faculty's research focus. The Chair in Intellectual Property Law, endowed by the Chancellor Dr JP Rupert, and the appointment of a gifted colleague who bridges the boundaries between human rights, environmental law, and the regulation of international trade according to public law will reinforce the emphasis on socially relevant research.

Our academic initiative under the HOPE Project also provides a firm base for a new approach to postgraduate training in the Faculty. The number of full-time research-driven master's and doctoral students is increasing rapidly. With a view to throughput rates, these students are exposed to active research training and a Postgraduate Research Committee was established to supervise these matters. Approval was obtained for the addition of two modules to the structured LLM programme, namely Aspects of Environmental Law and Public Procurement Regulation.

Our academic initiative under the HOPE Project can be sustainably integrated into the Faculty's normal activities to the extent that it falls within specific areas of expertise of the Faculty and the Legal Aid Clinic, and to the extent that the activities it entails are of a mainstream sort (such as post-graduate training, research, or community interaction). The generous grant made by Giuseppe and Kathleen Ciucci in 2010 for the funding of postgraduate students under the HOPE Project seems set to ensure the project's financial sustainability.

On the grounds of its extensive involvement in Stellenbosch, Klapmuts, Franschhoek and Ceres, and its strategically important role in relation to evictions, the Legal Aid Clinic was again named a flagship project of the University.

