

Open University
of Mauritius



ANNUAL REPORT

2022
2023

Open University
of Mauritius



ANNUAL REPORT

— 2022 - 2023 —

Letter of Transmittal

ANNUAL REPORT

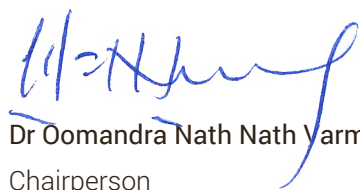
The Honourable Vice-Prime Minister,
Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology
2nd Floor, MITD House
Pont Fer
PHOENIX

Honourable Vice-Prime Minister

I have the honour of submitting the report on activities of the Open University of Mauritius for the period 01 July 2022 – 30 June 2023.

This report has been prepared in line with Section 6A of The Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act and The National Code for Corporate Governance for Mauritius.

Yours faithfully



Dr Oomandra Nath Nath Yarma, OSK
Chairperson
Open University of Mauritius

Corporate Information

ANNUAL REPORT

CHAIRPERSON

Dr Oomandra Nath Nath Varma, OSK

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Dr Kaviraj Sharma Sukon, PFHEA

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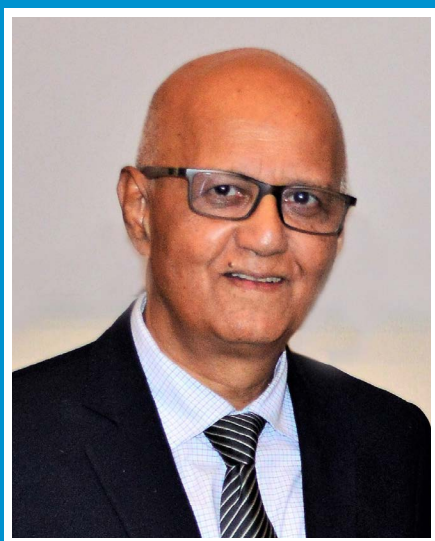
Solicitor General's Office

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Chairperson's Preface



Dr Oomandra Nath Nath Varma, OSK
Chairperson

As the Open University of Mauritius (OU) Chairperson, I am honoured to present the annual report for the academic year 2022-2023. This year was marked by continuous growth. Our student population has surpassed the 13,000 mark, which is by far the most significant number in the higher education sector in Mauritius. OU is financially self-sustaining, and we seek to build a reserve for the University's future expansion. The University registered a surplus of approximately Rs101.8M for the financial year 2022-23.

Quality is a significant concern for OU. The student support system ensures our students have the best services and support. OU is the only university in Mauritius using the SaaS-based Learning Management System, Blackboard Ultra. Further, to ensure quality research and opportunity at par with world-renowned institutions, OU offers access to research databases, which include EBSCOhost, Emerald Insight, Elsevier (ScienceDirect), and Thomson Reuters and plans to increase such resources further in the coming year.

OU has a wide range of study programmes providing wider opportunities to our local students. It is the only university offering the John Wiley's MSc Financial Analysis programme in Africa. To date, it has established partnerships with 77 partners, including Imperial College London, Commonwealth of Learning, Commonwealth Secretariat, University of KwaZulu Natal, John Wiley & Sons, CILT UK, Botswana Open University and Namibia College of Open Learning. Fifteen new agreements were signed in the year 2022/23.

Our achievements in governance, academic excellence, research, and international collaboration attest to the robustness of our operations. OU has several international memberships. These include the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), International Association of Universities (IAU), International Council for Distance Education (ICDE), African Council for Distance Education (ACDE),

Association of African Universities (AAU), and Distance Education Association of Southern Africa (DEASA). Our commitment to ethical governance and governance structure, supported by various committees and a dedicated Board, ensures that our strategic goals are pursued with utmost integrity and transparency.

OU has been relentlessly working to finalise the plan for constructing a new campus at Côte d'Or. Significant progress has been made. We expect that there will be concrete outcomes that will help the institution firmly look forward to a better future and enhance the higher education landscape of Mauritius. In line with government policy, OU is also poised to go beyond the shores of Mauritius and establish itself as a key player in higher education in the South. To that end, we are also improving and expanding our digital online learning space. These initiatives align with our mission to be a leader in open and distance learning within Mauritius and internationally.

Our commitment to inclusivity in education continues to deepen, with programmes specifically designed to support underrepresented and disadvantaged communities, ensuring no potential learner is left behind.

On behalf of the University, I sincerely thank the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science, and Technology, whose guidance and unwavering support have been instrumental to our achievements and rapid expansion beyond expectations. A heartfelt thanks to all the members of the OU Board, whose oversight and dedication have been highly instrumental to the effective functioning of the University. I also wish to express my profound appreciation to the Director-General for his foresight and to the entire Open University of Mauritius staff for helping to build the University on a solid foothold. Their tireless efforts, innovative spirit, and commitment to excellence are the driving force behind our University's success. Together, their collective expertise and enthusiasm have been pivotal in navigating the past year's challenges and seizing opportunities for growth and development. We look towards a future replete with promise and potential.

The Open University of Mauritius' journey has been exemplary. We are committed to continuous innovation and educational excellence. We look forward to the future with optimism, and we will pursue a robust strategy to provide transformative education experiences that are accessible, inclusive, and profoundly impactful.

Dr O N N Varma, OSK
Chairperson
Open University of Mauritius
2024

Director-General's Foreword



Dr Kaviraj Sharma Sukon, PFHEA
Founder Director-General

As the Founder Director-General of the Open University of Mauritius (OU), I am filled with a profound sense of pride as I reflect on our remarkable achievements over this past academic year. Amid the evolving challenges in higher education, OU has not merely persevered, but has indeed flourished, continuing to exemplify academic excellence and pioneering of innovation in learning.

This year marks a significant milestone as OU celebrated a decade of exceptional growth and leadership in distance education. Our journey from a nascent institution to becoming the foremost public university in Mauritius in terms of enrolment is a testament to our unwavering commitment to accessibility and high-quality education. With an enrolment figure reaching 13,587 students, including a substantial increase in international learners, our influence extends beyond national borders, reinforcing our stature as a global educational beacon.

Our students have brought great honour to the University with their international accolades, such as the first prize at *Ma thèse en 180 secondes* competition in Montreal, Canada, and significant honours at the Young Academic Award in Morocco. These accolades not only underline the quality and competitiveness of our academic programmes, but also demonstrate the exceptional calibre of our students.

From a financial standpoint, the University remains robust, closing the fiscal year with a surplus of Rs101.8 million. This sound financial health has empowered us to invest in crucial infrastructure, notably the initiation of our new campus at Côte d'Or. This expansion is set to significantly enhance our capacity to serve more students effectively.

Additionally, our strides in technology have been substantial, with the implementation of Blackboard Ultra and the production of 945 educational videos, thus enhancing our digital delivery and student

support systems. Our commitment to community and inclusive education remains steadfast, as demonstrated through initiatives like the Student Support Portal, which has served over 3.6 million users, providing invaluable learning support to students from diverse backgrounds. This portal exemplifies our dedication to removing barriers to education and supporting every student in achieving their potential.

OU remains a pioneer in transforming the landscape of education, not just in Mauritius, but globally as well. We are committed to innovating and adapting in ways that will continue to uphold our high standards of educational excellence. This is an exciting time for our University as we continue to grow, innovate, and lead in open and distance learning. We look forward to the future with optimism and a strong resolve to continue providing an educational experience that is relevant and transformative.

Undoubtedly, this year has been one of both celebration of past achievements and laying a stronger foundation for the future. The dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students, and the continual support from our stakeholders have been integral to our success. I am thankful to the Hon. Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, the Chairperson and members of the Board of OU, all the members of staff of OU, all the external examiners, part-time tutors, and our various partners.

As we look to the future, we are invigorated by the opportunities that lie ahead to further our mission of making quality higher education accessible to all.

Dr Kaviraj Sharma Sukon, PFHEA

Director-General

Open University of Mauritius

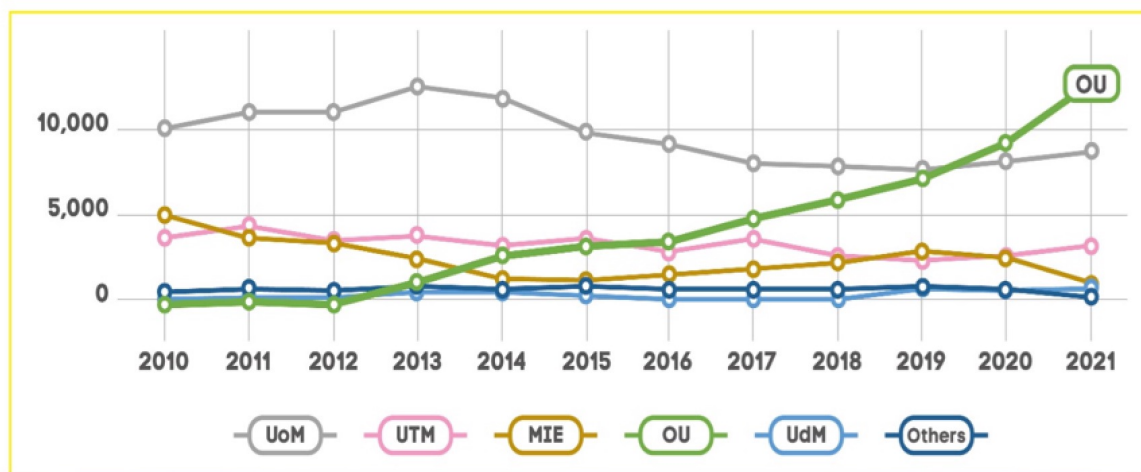
2024

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2022 - 2023



1. GROWTH

Open University of Mauritius (OU) is the only public university in Mauritius that has had a positive growth over the last ten years and has reached the number one position in Mauritius in terms of enrolment.



Source: HEC (2022) "Participation in Tertiary Education 2021"
Available at https://www.hec.mu/pdf_downloads/rpldivision/Participation_in_Tertiary_Education_2021.pdf

2. INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

- Mrs Dharyan Minien, doctorate student of OU, won the first prize for "Ma thèse en 180 secondes" (MT180) at the grand finale of MT180 in Montréal, Canada organised by L'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie and The French Embassy in Mauritius.
- Mrs Harshini Devi Moonisamy-Ellapah, doctorate student of OU, won the Second prize and the social media prize at the Young Academic Award, hosted by The World Alliance of International Financial Centers (WAIFC) in Morocco.

3. STUDENT INTAKE

The number of new learners including international learners admitted to the *Undergraduate programmes and Postgraduate programmes* during the year 2022/23 was 2,344.

1,082 learners joined in August 2022, while **1,262** joined in January 2023.

Total number of learners as at June 2023: 13,587.

The number of learners enrolled in short courses during the year 2022/23 was **2,679** including learners enrolled on Undergraduate/Postgraduate programmes.

4. SOUND FINANCIAL POSITION

The University registered a surplus of approximately **Rs101.8M** at closure of accounts for FY 2022/23.

5. REINFORCING THE HUMAN RESOURCES DURING THE YEAR 2022/23

OU is investing continuously to expand its human resource base to provide an even better service to its learners and stakeholders.

- 51 new recruits have assumed duty at OU.
- 8 serving officers were appointed at higher level.

6. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CAMPUS AT CÔTE D'OR

OU has hired a Project Management Consultant, namely Ong-Seng Goburdhun Partners Ltd for the construction of its new campus at Côte d'Or.

7. NUMBER OF VIDEOS PRODUCED

OU's Audio-Video Production (AVP) Unit has produced 945 videos. These include 100 videos for the Student Support Portal.

8. STUDENT SUPPORT PORTAL

The Student Support Portal (SSP) has hitherto been accessed by 3,618,337 people.

SSP, which has a total of 1,934 videos on top of other learning materials, accompanies students of secondary schools in their quest to achieve academic and personal success irrespective of their economic and social backgrounds. Students are provided additional support freely. This supplementary instruction provides all students the opportunities to consolidate their learning.

9. VISIT OF INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION

- Prof. Anunaya Chaubey from the Anand National University, Ahmedabad, India, August 2022.
- Delegation from University of Portsmouth, September 2022.
- Delegation from University of Seychelles, November 2022.
- Delegation from Nelson Mandela University, November 2022.
- Delegation from Open University, UK, November 2022.
- Delegation from Centennial College of Ontario, Canada, November 2022.
- Mr C Armand of AUF - Afrique Australe et Océan Indien, February 2023.
- Her Excellency, Dr Maria do Rosario Braganca, Minister of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of Angola, May 2023.

10. SIGNATURE OF MOU EVENTS

The MPR Unit organised three agreement signature events with external partners as follows:

1. Emotional Well-Being Institute (Geneva) – 14 July 2022;
2. University of Portsmouth – 19 September 2022; and
3. Concentrix – 21 March 2023.

11. OULEARN BLACKBOARD

In order to provide a better service to its increasing number of students, OU has acquired a SaaS-based Learning Management System, Blackboard Ultra, which is being used by more than one hundred million users worldwide. Most of the full-time academics are Blackboard Certified Practitioners. Training is ongoing for newly recruited academics. More than 300 part-time academics have been trained to use the Blackboard LMS and continuous workshops are organised at the start of every semester for them.

12. LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTRE

New Subscriptions: Elsevier-Science Direct Freedom Collection of 2,324 e-journal titles.

New Acquisition of Books/Periodicals/Newspapers: 1,159

Interactive Library Instructions

Eight interactive library instructions sessions were conducted for newly appointed Lecturers, Lecturers, Senior Lecturers, Heads of Department, Senior Management team and part-time Lecturers.

Webinar/Workshop/Training Organised

In collaboration with the following e-resource providers, 9 trainings and 3 webinars were organised by the Library Services Unit for undergraduate and postgraduate learners, PhD and DBA learners, part-time Lecturers, Academics, and Researchers:

- EBSCOhost;
- Emerald Insight;
- Elsevier (ScienceDirect); and
- Thomson Reuters.

13. FIRST CYCLE QUALITY AUDIT

The First Cycle Quality Audit of OU by the Ex-Tertiary Education Commission was carried out in March 2018. As per the Quality Audit Report, at OU,

"...learning programmes are effectively organised and managed";

"Student support is furthermore integrated in all the functions of the institution."

Source: Report of the First Cycle Quality Audit of the Open University of Mauritius, TEC, 2018
The then TEC Audit Panel also commended OU for

"having in place a programme validation process;

for the high calibre of resource persons and the invaluable role they play in the design and quality of learning experiences;

the allocation of scholarships for PhD to new recruits;

its outreach and support to some incarcerated individuals who were offered an opportunity to study..."

14. DIVERSE PROGRAMMES OF STUDIES

Total number of programmes offered: **59**

OU is the **only** university offering the John Wiley's MSc Financial Analysis programme in Africa. It allows learners to follow the up-to-date curriculum of the prestigious Chartered Financial Analyst programme I and II, have access to world-renowned study materials, and benefit from the expertise of international experts.

15. MAJOR EVENTS

- Celebration of OU's 10th Anniversary/Launching of OU's Souvenir Magazine.
- Distribution of gifts to all the staff members of OU on the occasion of the 10th anniversary
- Virtual Inductions attended by more than 2,000 students.
- Social Sciences International Research Conference (SSIRC) with North-West University attended by local and international delegates.
- Conference under the theme "*Advancing the understanding and impacts of emotional well-being for flourishing societies*". OU collaborated with EWBI to organise the first edition of the conference in Mauritius and another key partner of this event was Middlesex University. This was attended by local and international researchers and professionals from several countries.
- Two Convocation Ceremonies and an Award Ceremony for the Certificate in School Management after Confinement.
- Poetry Reading Session organised by President's Fund for Creative Writing under the aegis of the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage
- Interactive virtual event with FSI in OU studio to promote the International Graduate Diploma in Financial Crime Compliance.
- *Présentation de livres sur l'Interculturel* par Dr Issa Asgarally, CSK.

16. ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES

2,222 Certificates were issued to learners who have successfully completed all requirements for an award.

17. OU IS ISO 9001:2015-CERTIFIED

The University remains the only ISO 9001:2015-certified local public university.

18. SOLID PARTNERS

OU has 77 partners. Its major partners include Imperial College London, Commonwealth of Learning, Commonwealth Secretariat, University of KwaZulu Natal, John Wiley & Sons, CILT UK, Botswana Open University and Namibia College of Open Learning among others. Fifteen new agreements were signed in year 2022/23.

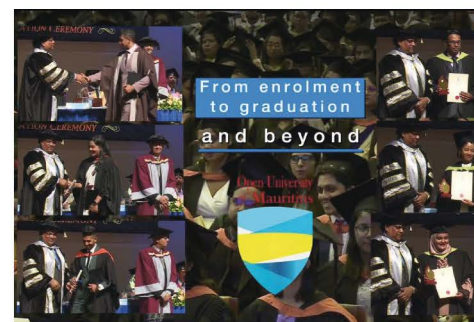
OU is a Member of: Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU); International Association of Universities (IAU); International Council for Distance Education (ICDE); African Council for Distance Education (ACDE); Association of African Universities (AAU) and Distance Education Association of Southern Africa (DEASA).

19. CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Under its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, OU offers scholarships to eligible learners as per its established criteria and employs persons with special needs. During the period under review, OU has also offered sponsorships to the:

- Triolet SSS, for the publication of the Triolet SSS Souvenir magazine. A half-page colour advert of OU programmes was thus included in the magazine.
- Rotary Club Haute Rive, for the provision of a water tank for school children in Rodrigues.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE



INTRODUCTION

The Open University of Mauritius (OU) is a corporate body. It was enacted by the Parliament of Mauritius. The Act is cited as the Open University of Mauritius Act No. 2 of 2010 (Open University Act) as amended in 2012.

OBJECTS OF OU

- (a) advance and disseminate learning and knowledge through a diversity of means, with emphasis on information and communication technologies;
- (b) provide wider opportunities for education and training to the population, through open and distance learning, and promote lifelong learning;
- (c) encourage the use of open and distance learning at all levels of education and training through collaboration, optimal use of existing resources and good practices;
- (d) encourage and promote scholarship and conduct research and development in educational technology and related matters; and
- (e) be the focal point for the provision of open and distance learning in Mauritius through the establishment of active partnerships with local public and private institutions, as well as overseas institutions engaged in providing education and training.

FUNCTIONS OF OU

The functions of OU are outlined in Section 5, under Part II of the Open University of Mauritius Act No. 2 of 2010. **(Refer to Annex 1)**.

POWERS OF OU

To enable OU to attain its objects and discharge its functions most effectively, the Open University of Mauritius Act makes provision under Part II Section 6 for the powers of OU. **(Refer to Annex 2)**.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

PRINCIPLE 1 - GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Open University of Mauritius is a corporate body set up under the Open University of Mauritius Act No. 2 of 2010.

THE BOARD

The Open University Act No. 2 of 2010 under Part III 'Administration' makes provision for the appointment of the Chairperson and its members.

BOARD CHARTER

The Open University of Mauritius has not developed a Charter for the Board as its composition, renewal of membership, terms of reference as well as the conduct of its meetings are already provided for in the Open University of Mauritius Act No. 2 of 2010 as described below.

Part III Section 10 of Open University of Mauritius Act No. 2 of 2010 stipulates the terms of reference of the OU Board and is given hereunder:

The Board shall be the governing body having the direction and superintendence of OU and its principal functions include:

- (a) devising or approving strategic plans and policies for OU;
- (b) overseeing its management and development;
- (c) monitoring and reviewing its operations; and
- (d) providing rigorous accountability standards in its various operations.

The Board may

- (a) on behalf of OU:
 - (i) confer honorary degrees;
 - (ii) appoint the academic and general staff;
 - (iii) manage and control its affairs, property and finance;
 - (iv) subject to the Public Procurement Act, enter into any contract or other arrangement;
 - (v) institute or discontinue courses of study; and
 - (vi) take any decision on a question of policy relating to its administration and functioning;
- (b) do all such things as may be necessary for, or incidental or conducive to, the performance of its functions under subsection (1).

The procedure to be observed for the convening and holding of meetings of the Board are specified in the statutes as detailed below:

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Corporate Governance is the combination of processes and structures implemented by the Board of OU to inform, direct, manage and monitor the activities of the University towards the achievement of its objectives.

OU has always recognised the importance of good governance as being critical to the effective performance and operation of the University. We hold strong values of responsibility and integrity.

We are committed to an environment where open and honest communication is the expectation, not the exception.

Throughout the year that ended on 30 June 2023, to the best of the Board's knowledge, the Open University of Mauritius has complied with the Corporate Governance Code for Mauritius (2016). The University has applied the principles set out in the Code and explained how these principles had been applied.

MEETINGS OF BOARD

- (1) The Board may regulate its proceedings in such manner as it thinks fit.
- (2) In the absence of the Chairperson at a meeting of the Board, a member of the Board elected by the members present, shall preside at that meeting.
- (3) Where a member of the Board has an interest in a matter being considered or about to be considered by the Board, he shall –
 - a) as soon as practicable after the relevant facts have come to his knowledge, declare the nature of his interest; and
 - b) not be present during any deliberation, nor vote with respect to that matter.
- (4) A quorum shall be constituted by 6 members of the Board and no business may be transacted at a meeting of the Board unless there is a quorum.
- (5) Each member present at a meeting of the Board shall be entitled to one vote on a matter arising for decision at the meeting, and the person presiding the meeting shall, in the event of an equality of votes, have a casting vote.
- (6) A decision carried by a majority of the votes cast by the members present and voting at a meeting shall be a decision of the Board.
- (7) The Board shall meet at least 6 times in one calendar year.

CODE OF ETHICS

The Open University of Mauritius has developed its Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics as approved by the Board is given at Annex 3.

Code of Ethics is a written set of codes issued by the Open University of Mauritius to its employees and stakeholders to help them conduct their actions in accordance with its primary values and ethical standards.

The Open University of Mauritius is committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct in all its activities, and the OU community has the responsibility to act ethically and in accordance with this Code of Ethics.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE STATEMENT

VISION

The vision of OU is to be one of the best Open Universities in the world.

MISSION

The mission of OU is to use technology and flexible mode of teaching to serve society, transform lives, and make high-quality education, lifelong learning, and training accessible to everyone while promoting excellence in research.

Therefore, OU endeavours to

1. Expand the scope and scale of quality higher education available to school leavers;
2. Provide greater access to continuing professional education, skills development and training at an affordable cost;
3. Provide more opportunities for lifelong learning;
4. Play a leading role in research and development and application of learning technologies for education and training;
5. Foster national, regional and international partnerships and collaborations for the optimal use of resources for open and distance learning; and
6. Provide quality learning programmes in Mauritius and the region in a learner-centred environment using state-of-the-art information and communication technologies.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

OU aspires to be one of the best Open Universities in the world. OU has been the only public university to have positive growth during the last ten years while being the only ISO-Certified public university in Mauritius.

OU in its mission to offer high-quality tertiary education using technology and the flexible mode of teaching and learning has enabled working adults to earn a university degree while fulfilling their professional and personal obligations. Employees are thus free to study at their own place and pace while taking advantage of the blended mode of study with tutorial support as well as the use of online learning facilities.

Moreover, OU remains one of the most affordable public universities in Mauritius, which is yet another way that it is ensuring that higher education becomes accessible to a larger proportion of the

Mauritian population. OU has also secured strategic partnerships with internationally reputed partners which enables it to provide higher-quality blended learning materials.

The Strategic Plan 2017-2025 was prepared after various consultations so as to meet the challenges of a rapidly and continuously evolving local and international higher education landscape. An in-depth SWOT analysis enabled OU to formulate its strategic goals and objectives which are expected to take it to new heights by constantly pushing its boundaries to achieve its ultimate vision.

STRATEGIC GOALS 2017-2025

OU has set the following goals which are its strategic objectives:

1. The First Choice for Higher Education
2. An Excellent Faculty
3. An Effective Quality Assurance System
4. Excellent Evaluation, Assessment and Examination Mechanisms
5. High-Quality Distance Education and Online Learning Materials
6. The Best Provider of Lifelong Learning Opportunities, Employability Courses and Consultancy
7. Well Established Open School Division
8. Professional Learner Support and Excellent Customer Care
9. Excellent Marketing and Public Relations
10. Effective Financing Strategy
11. A Competent, Productive, Motivated and Satisfied Human Resource Base
12. Effective Management Support
13. The Best ICT Facilities and Building Infrastructure
14. Effective Research, Consultancy and Innovation
15. An Effective Library Service
16. An Effective Partnership, Collaboration and International Network

OU's Strategic Plan 2017-2025 has also enumerated a series of milestones to be attained in terms of financial performance and student enrolment among others.

A Performance Agreement is signed annually with the parent Ministry mentioning the deliverables and KPIs following Board's approval.

VALUES

The Values of OU are:

- Openness
- Flexibility
- Diversity
- Quality
- Excellence

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The duties of the Chairperson, the Director-General and the Registrar are outlined in the Open University of Mauritius Act No. 2 of 2010, as reproduced hereunder:

Chairperson of Board

The Chairperson shall –

- (a) preside at every meeting of the Board and any Convocation;
- (b) ensure that the decisions taken by the Board are implemented; and
- (c) perform such other duties and exercise such powers as may be assigned to him by the Act or the Statutes.

Director-General

The Director-General shall –

- (a) be the chief academic and executive officer of the Open University;
- (b) hold office for a period of 5 years, renewable for further periods of 3 years and on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine;
- (c) in the absence of the Chairperson, preside at a Convocation and confer degrees, diplomas or other academic qualifications upon persons entitled to receive them;
- (d) exercise control over the affairs of the Open University; and
- (e) ensure the faithful observance of the provisions of this Act, the Statutes and the rules and regulations.

Registrar

The duties of the Registrar shall be to –

- (a) act as Secretary to the Board and the Academic Council, and to keep minutes;
- (b) be the custodian of the records, the common seal, and such other property of the Open University as the Board shall commit to his charge;
- (c) arrange for the conduct of examinations;
- (d) issue any advice convening meetings of the Board, the Human Resource Committee, the Academic Council, Boards of Examiners and of any committees appointed by the Open University;
- (e) conduct the official correspondence of the Board and the Academic Council; and
- (f) perform such other duties as may be specified in the Statutes or the Regulations or may be required from time to time by the Board or the Director-General.

Organisational Chart

OU's Organigram is at **Annex 4**.

The aims and objectives of each division and major units are documented and same are posted on the website of the Open University of Mauritius.

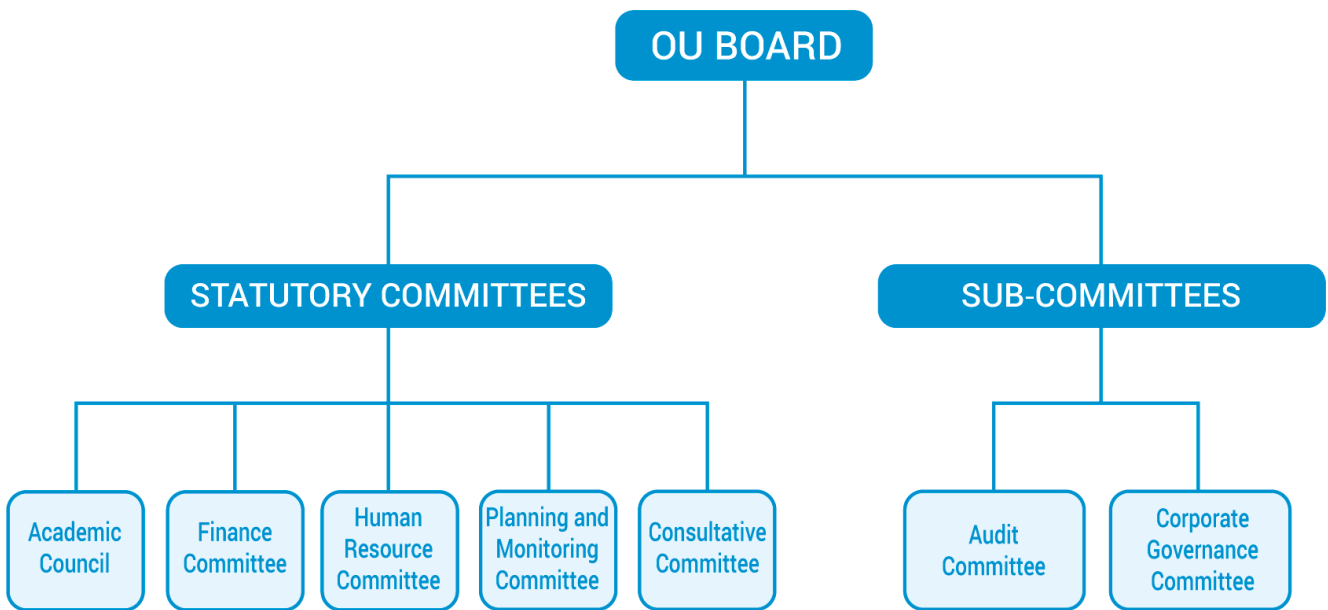
PRINCIPLE 2 - THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES

Composition of the Board

The Board of the Open University of Mauritius is composed of the following:

SN	Name of Directors	Board Appointments as per Open University of Mauritius Act	Classification of Membership as per the Code of Corporate Governance
1.	Dr O N Nath Varma, OSK	Appointed by the Prime Minister	Independent and Non-executive Chairperson
2.	Dr K S Sukon, PFHEA Director-General	Appointed by the Prime Minister on the advice of Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science & Technology	Executive Director
3.	Mr M Boodhun <i>(w.e.f. 07 June - July 2022)</i>	Appointed by Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology	Non-Executive Director
	Prof. (Dr) K Bhujun <i>(w.e.f. 05 August 2022)</i>		
4.	Prof S K Sobhee <i>(w.e.f. 01 July 2022)</i>		Non-Executive Director
5.	Dr H Bessoondyal <i>(w.e.f. 01 July 2022)</i>		Non-Executive Director
6.	Dr M I Alladin		Non-Executive Director
7.	Mr S Gangoo		Non-Executive Director
8.	Mrs A Appadoo		Non-Executive Director
9.	Mr L Teeluck		Non-Executive Director
10.	Mr M Sohoraye		Elected by and from the academic staff
11.	Ms M D Gokhul <i>(w.e.f. 26 October 2022)</i>	Appointed by the Board under section 14(8) of the Statutes of the OU Act as representative of general staff	Non-Executive and Non-Independent Director
12.	Mrs S L D Gopee	Registrar	Secretary to the Board

The Board's Structure for Corporate Governance



BOARD COMMITTEES

The Open University Act makes provision for the setting up of the following Statutory Committees to assist the OU Board in the performance of its functions:

- Finance Committee
- Human Resource Committee
- Planning and Monitoring Committee
- Consultative Committee

In order to facilitate the effective running of the University, the Board has also established some Sub-Committees. Specific responsibilities are delegated to these Committees which are as follows:

- Audit Committee
- Corporate Governance Committee

All Chairs of the Statutory and Sub-Committees discuss and have in-depth deliberations before submitting their recommendations to the Board for consideration. Each Chair presents their papers and reports on proceedings of their committees at the subsequent Board Meeting.

1. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Composition

Chairperson

- Prof. S K Sobhee, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius

Members

- Dr K S Sukon, PFHEA, Director-General, Open University of Mauritius
- Mr S Gangoo, Ag. Rector, Sookdeo Bissoondoyal State College
- Mr L Teeluck, Former Deputy Rector, Collège du Saint-Esprit
- Mrs A Appadoo, Franchise Owner & Managing Director, Dale Carnegie Mauritius
- Mrs B N K Hosany, Manager Financial Operations, Ministry of Education & Human Resources, Tertiary Education & Scientific Research **as Co-opted Member (w.e.f. 14 March 2023)**

The Finance Committee's responsibility is to make recommendations to the Board on:

- (a) The financial position of the Open University from time to time;
- (b) All other matters relating to finance; and
- (c) Such other matters on which it may be requested by the Board to report.

2. HUMAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Composition

Chairperson:

- Mr M Boodhun, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science & Technology **(07 June 2022 to end of July 2022)**
- Prof. (Dr) K Bhujun, Director Tertiary Education & Scientific Research, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science & Technology **(w.e.f. 05 August 2022)**

Members:

- Dr K S Sukon, PFHEA, Director-General of Open University of Mauritius
- Prof. S K Sobhee, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius
- Dr H Bessoondyal, Director, Mauritius Institute of Education
- Mr L Teeluck, Former Deputy Rector, Collège du Saint-Esprit

The Human Resource Committee's responsibility is to:

- (a) Make recommendations to the Board for appointments to any office in the Open University, other than that of Director-General;
- (b) Be responsible for staff matters, including conditions of service, criteria for the appointment, promotion, transfer of staff, discipline, welfare, staff development and training programmes; and
- (c) Appoint such disciplinary committee as may have to be set up.

3. PLANNING AND MONITORING COMMITTEE

Chairperson:

- Dr M I Alladin, Management Consultant

Members:

- Dr K S Sukon, PFHEA, Director-General of Open University of Mauritius
- Dr H Bessoondyal, Director, Mauritius Institute of Education
- Mr M Sohoraye, Lecturer and Representative of OU Academic Staff (**w.e.f. 23 November 2022**)
- Mr V Patten, Team Leader Quality Assurance, OU

The Planning and Monitoring Committee's responsibility is to make recommendations to the Board on:

- a) Immediate, medium and long-term plans of the Open University, taking into account the present and future needs of Mauritius;
- b) Monitoring the execution of all plans of the Open University and suggesting measures for quality assurance; and
- c) Such other matters on which it may be requested by the Board to report.

4. CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The committee has not yet been constituted.

Nominations for the constitution of the Consultative Committee are being awaited from the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology. All public TEIs had been informed that there shall be one consultative committee for all the public TEIs. It should be noted that OU sets an ad hoc Advisory Committee for each of its programmes of studies in which external stakeholders are invited to give their views on the relevance of the programme content to the labour market needs.

The Committee is responsible for advising the Open University of Mauritius on –

- (a) The development of programmes of study and research, in line with the needs of the labour market;
- (b) The relevance of the curricula of programmes of study to the labour market needs;
- (c) Effective quality assurance of the programmes of study; and
- (d) Placements, internships and research.

5. AUDIT COMMITTEE

Composition

Chairperson

- Dr H Bessoondyal, Director, Mauritius Institute of Education

Members:

- Dr M I Alladin, Management Consultant
- Ms M D Gokhul, Administrative Officer and Representative of OU General Staff (**w.e.f. 23 November 2022**)

In attendance

Mrs P Ramdoo-Sadien, Internal Auditor/Senior Internal Auditor, OU

The Audit Committee has to focus on:

- The functioning of the internal control system;
- The functioning of the internal audit department;
- The risk areas of the company's operations to be covered in the scope of the internal and external audits;
- The reliability and accuracy of the financial information provided by management to the board and other users of financial information;
- Whether OU should continue to use the services of the current external and internal auditors;
- Any accounting or auditing concerns identified as a result of the internal or external audits;
- OU's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements with regard to financial matters;
- The scope and results of the external audit and its cost-effectiveness, as well as the independence and objectivity of the external auditors;
- The nature and extent of non-audit services provided by the external auditors, where applicable.

6. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Composition

Chairperson:

- Mr S Gangoo, Ag. Rector, Sookdeo Bissoondoyal State College

Members:

- Dr M I Alladin, Management Consultant
- Mrs A Appadoo, Managing Director, Dale Carnegie
- Dr K S Sukon, PFHEA, Director-General, Open University of Mauritius (OU)

The terms of reference for the Corporate Governance Committee are as follows:

The Committee shall:

- operate as a standing committee of the OU Board;
- oversee all matters concerning Corporate Governance activities of OU aimed at the promotion and achievement of the objectives and such related matters as may be referred to the Committee by the Board;
- determine, agree and develop the University's general policy on corporate governance in accordance with the applicable Code of Corporate Governance;
- prepare the corporate governance report to be published in the University's annual report; and
- ensure that disclosures are made in the annual report in compliance with the disclosure provisions in the Code of Corporate Governance.

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Part IV Section 15 of the Open University of Mauritius Act stipulates the Academic and Management Structure of the Open University of Mauritius.

It makes provision for the setting up of the Academic Council which

- (a) is the principal academic body of the Open University;
- (b) has control and general regulation of teaching, examination, and research;
- (c) is responsible for the maintenance of appropriate standards and discipline among the learners of the Open University; and
- (d) grants transfer of credits to learners in respect of learning acquired in another institution.

The constitution of the Academic Council, the term of office of its members, its functions and powers and the procedure to be observed for the convening and holding of its meetings are as specified in the statutes.

OTHER COMMITTEES

Public Procurement Activities

The Open University is responsible for the planning and conduct of its procurement in line with the Public Procurement Act 2006.

The Open University ensures that the procurement methods, the bidding process and the issue of procurement contracts are dealt with in line with the provisions of the Public Procurement Act and relevant regulations.

From 1st July 2022 to 30 June 2023, the Open University conducted 52 Departmental Bid Committees (DBC), in line with the modernisation of procurement rules and procedures as set out in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development Circular Letter No. 2 of 2016.

The composition of the DBC is as follows:

Director-General	Chairperson
Financial Controller	Member
Senior Procurement & Supply Officer	Member
Office Management Assistant	Secretary

The terms of reference of the DBC are:

1. Vetting bidding documents for procurement below prescribed amounts, contract forms, terms and conditions, and addenda to bidding documents and clarification to bidders if any;
2. Opening of bids;
3. Referring bids to the Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC) for examination and evaluation;
4. Attending to request(s) from BEC for any clarifications arising at the evaluation stage.

PRINCIPLE 3 - PROCEDURES FOR APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS

Part III, Section 9 of the Open University of Mauritius Act No. 2 of 2010 stipulates the composition and mode of appointment of Board Members, as quoted below:

“There shall be a Board which shall consist of

(a) a Chairperson, to be appointed by the Prime Minister;

(b) 7 persons to be appointed by the Minister, out of whom -

(i) 2 shall be executive heads of local public tertiary education institutions having developed partnerships with the Open University;

- (ii) 2 shall have substantial knowledge and experience of tertiary education and open and distance learning;
 - (iii) one person shall be from the private sector and shall have substantial industrial experience;
 - (iv) one person shall be from the public sector;
 - (v) one person shall be from civil society and engaged in community service;
- (c) a person who shall be elected by and from the academic staff;
 - (d) a person who shall be elected by and from the general staff; and
 - (e) the Director-General."

The Director-General, appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of the Minister, is the Chief Executive and Academic Officer of the Open University.

Part V Section 18 of the Open University Act No. 2 of 2010 stipulates the mode of appointment of the Director-General and is quoted below:

"There shall be a Director-General of the Open University who shall –

- (a) be appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendation of the Minister;*
- (b) be the chief executive and academic officer of the Open University; and*
- (c) hold office on such terms and conditions as may be specified in the Statutes."*

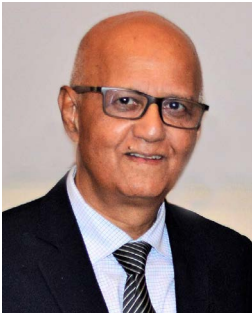
The procedure for the appointment of the Registrar is specified in the statutes.

Tenure of Office of Members of Board

Every appointed or elected member of the Board shall hold office for a term of 3 years.

An appointed member shall be eligible for reappointment for not more than one further term of 3 years.

Profile of Board Members



Dr Oomandra Nath Nath Varma, OSK
Chairperson of OU Board

Dr Oomandra Nath Nath Varma, OSK, holds a BA (Hons) in Sociology, MA (Sociology), PGCE, PhD (Education).

He has been an Education Officer with 11 years of teaching experience at the New Eton College. He joined the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) in 1991 as Lecturer. He was subsequently Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor, Deputy Director (2011) and the Director of the Mauritius Institute of Education (2013-2021). He also held the UNESCO Chair in Higher Education for Mauritius (2017-2021).

He is currently engaged with the World Bank on the Africa Centre of Excellence Project under the aegis of the Association of African Universities.

He is also Advisor on "Curriculum and Pedagogy to the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology."

He is also the Chairperson of the Academi Kreol Repiblik Moris [AKRM].



Dr Heman Bessoondyal
OU Board Member

Dr H Bessoondyal is the Director of the Mauritius Institute of Education since 08 June 2022.

Dr Bessoondyal holds a PhD in Mathematics from Curtin University of Technology, an MPhil, an MSc and a BSc in Mathematics from the University of Poona, India. He also holds a Post Graduate Certificate in Professional Education Studies from the University of Brighton, UK and a Post Graduate Diploma in Inclusive and Special Education from the MIE.

He joined the Mauritius Institute of Education in 1994 as Lecturer and climbed the ladder to Senior Lecturer and Associate Professor. Dr Bessoondyal has shouldered various key responsibilities at the MIE, namely Head of the Mathematics Education Department, Ag. Head of School of Science and Mathematics, Quality Assurance Coordinator, Head of Higher Studies Cell as well as Chair of MIE Award Committee for Programmes pertaining to Early Childhood Education and Primary Education. He is also a member of the Private Secondary Education Authority (PSEA) Board.



Professor (Dr) Sanjeev Kumar Sobhee
OU Board Member

Professor Sanjeev K Sobhee has been appointed as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius on 19 September 2022.

Prior to his appointment, Prof. Sobhee was Acting Vice-Chancellor since March 2022 till his appointment in a substantive capacity and served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academia) from April 2017 to 19 September 2022. During his tenure as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sobhee has been spearheading major academic reforms at the University including the streamlining of several administrative processes and procedures. Moreover, he occupied the post of Dean of the Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities from 2008 to 2011 and prior to this, he was Head of the Department of Economics and Statistics from 2004 to 2006.

As an academic, Prof. Sobhee has wide experience in teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels across different fields of Economics. His teaching focus has been Advanced Macroeconomics, Public Policy, Economics of the Environment and Sustainable Development and Quantitative Methods mostly on postgraduate programmes.

As far as his research is concerned, Prof. Sobhee has published extensively in internationally refereed journals such as *Journal of Economic Policy Forum*, *Oxford Development Studies*, *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, *American Review of Political Economy*, *Development Southern Africa*, *Applied Economics Letters*, *Ocean and Coastal Management and Environmental Management*, amongst others. He has also contributed to different book chapters in these areas.

In addition, Prof. Sobhee has been a Consultant for several projects for various international institutions, namely, The World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and Southern African Development Community (SADC).



Dr Mohammad Ibrahim Alladin
OU Board Member

Dr Ibrahim Alladin was educated in England, Canada, and Australia. He received a BA (Hons) in Sociology and Public Administration in London, a Master's degree in Sociology and Education from the University of Alberta and a PhD from Australia. He started his academic and teaching career at the University of Alberta, and then became the Associate Director of the Centre for International

Development. He was also appointed Professor at Altai University in Russia and served as a Visiting Professor at several universities in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Professor Alladin has extensive experience in educational planning and management. He was the Team Leader of a major project on tertiary education in Papua New Guinea and has been the Project Coordinator in Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, India, Peru, China, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. He has also served as a consultant and is an external examiner for doctoral students.

Dr Alladin is a writer and author. He has published several articles on education, society, economics, international development, and multiculturalism, and is the author of more than twenty books. Some of his books include:

Education and Neocolonialism; Economic Miracle in the Indian Ocean. Can Mauritius Show the Way?; Education, State and Politics in Multicultural Societies; Racism in Canadian Schools; Perspectives on Global Education; Teaching in a Global Society; Covid-19: Lockdown in Mauritius. Memories in Pictures.

He is a Paul Harris Fellow and received the Citizenship Citation Award from the Govt. of Canada. He is currently Adjunct Professor at the University of Cape Breton in Canada, and Education Advisor at MCET in India. Dr Alladin is also the Founder and President of the Alladin Foundation, a charitable organisation.



Mr Satyaveer Gangoo
OU Board Member

Mr Satyaveer Gangoo has been appointed as the Ag. Rector of Sookdeo Bissoondoyal State College by the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology as from March 2023.

He worked in the textile industry for a few years as an Administrative Manager and a Warehouse Manager. He began working in the Secondary Education sector in March 1999 as an Education Officer. Additionally, from May 2015 until November 2021, he served as the Governor of the University of Technology, Mauritius.

For initiatives like the Junior Achievement Mascareignes Company Program and the Stock Exchange of Mauritius Young Investors Award (SEMYIA), Mr Gangoo has served as a facilitator on numerous occasions.

He served as a mentor to various teams, helping them to win the Junior Achievement Mascareignes Company Program three times and place first runner-up twice. In 2011, 2013, and 2017, he organised teams of upper secondary students to compete in the JA Company of the Year competition (Africa), and he took home the following honours:

- First Runner-Up in 2013
- Fincorp Excellence in Teamwork Award in 2013
- Entrepreneurial Spirit Award – Bechtel Group in 2013
- JA Africa Company of the Year Marketo Excellence in Marketing Award in 2017



Mrs Anuradha Appadoo
OU Board Member

Mrs Anuradha Appadoo is the Franchise Owner and Managing Director of Dale Carnegie Mauritius since 2014 and has been an entrepreneur for the past 14 years.

Prior to embarking on an entrepreneurship journey in 2008, she worked in the UK and returned to Mauritius in 1991, where she occupied a Managerial position in several sectors - namely Shipping, Construction and Financial.

Mrs Appadoo has thus acquired more than 25 years of leadership experience as a Business Leader in several sectors – locally, regionally and globally.

She became a Dale Carnegie facilitator in 2000 and a Master Trainer in 2014 and a Carnegie Master in 2023. She is also a TEDx speaker, keynote speaker, and guest speaker on various local platforms. She has been actively involved in developing Women Entrepreneurs across the Indian Ocean for the last 10 years. She has been the President of Women in Networking, President of Association Mauricienne des Femmes Chefs d'Entreprise and President of National Women Entrepreneur Council.

She is currently actively involved with the Mauritius Institute of Directors to increase the representation of women in senior leadership positions. She is a member of the Women Directors Forum that drives D&I initiatives.

She sits on the International Dale Carnegie Franchisee Association as the Director for EMEA Region.

As a thought leader, Mrs Appadoo is involved in strategic discussions with several of her business partners across leading sectors of the Mauritian economy.

She holds a BA in Business Studies from Ealing University, UK (1990) and an MBA from Birmingham University, UK (2006).

She is a Master's Trainer at Dale Carnegie University (2014) and Genos EI Coach in progress since November 2021.



Prof. K Bhujun
OU Board Member (w.e.f. 05 August 2022)

With over 22 years of experience across various sectors and institutions, Professor Kiran Bhujun has established himself as a leader in higher education policy, academic, and administrative aspects. Currently, he serves as the Director of the Tertiary Education and Scientific Research Division of the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Mauritius, a position he has held since 2016.

From February 2020 to February 2022, Prof. Bhujun worked as the Vice-Chancellor and Director of AMITY (Mauritius) and the Director of AMITY Global Business School in Mauritius, where he also oversaw operations in Kenya and South Africa. Before this, he was seconded by the Government of Mauritius to serve as Officer-in-Charge of the University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM), the second-largest public university in the country, from July 2018 to August 2019. He significantly improved processes and operations during his tenure, enhanced efficiency, accountability, and proper policy implementation. He also changed the university's strategic vision, fostered stakeholder collaboration, and built a solid team to drive future success.

In addition to his expertise in higher education, Prof. Bhujun has served as Project Manager of the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mauritius, as Registrar of the Council of Registered Professional Engineers of Mauritius, as Contract Management and Contract Law Consultant, and as Senior Engineer in the Ministry of Public Infrastructure. He has also been Deputy Director and Registrar of the Mauritius Qualifications Authority, the regulatory body overseeing TVET in Mauritius.

Prof. Bhujun's educational qualifications include law, civil engineering, business administration, project management, and higher education governance. He is passionate about improving the efficiency of institutions and democratising research and funding to support the development of researchers at all levels. He firmly believes in empowering individuals to change society and themselves positively. His favourite quote, "A single candle can light the world," exemplifies his approach to leadership and service.

His Educational and Professional certification is as follows:

- B Tech in Civil Engineering – IIT Kanpur, India
- LLB – University of London, UK
- MBA – University of Mauritius
- PhD in Higher Education Governance – Murdoch University, Australia
- Chartered Engineer (CEng) – Institution of Engineers India
- Project Management Professional (PMP) – PMI USA
- Registered Professional Engineer (RPEM) – Mauritius
- Fellow – Institution of Engineers, Mauritius

Prof. Bhujun is also a Director on the Board of the OU Campus Development Ltd, a company set up by the Open University of Mauritius as a Special Purpose Vehicle for the construction of the new campus.



Mr Lindsay Teeluck
OU Board Member

Mr Lindsay Teeluck was Educator (1979-2021), Head of Department in Biology (2008-2014) and former Deputy Rector at Collège du Saint-Esprit.

He holds a Teacher's Diploma in Biology/Integrated Science and a Bachelor in Education (Biology).

He has been a member of the Board of Governors at the Collège du Saint Esprit, a member of the Board of Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre and Coordinator for "Communauté Chemin Neuf".



Mr Mrinal Sohoraye
OU Board Member

Mr Mrinal Sohoraye is a Lecturer in Psychology and Research Methods. He was elected as Representative of Academic Staff to serve on the OU Board from 2015 to 2018. He was again re-elected for a further period of three years in 2021 in the same capacity.

As an experienced academic with more than 15 years in the higher education sector, Mr Sohoraye has witnessed and contributed to the field of education, be it in terms of programme development, collaboration with industry partners and international ties with several privileged partners across the globe.

Mr Sohoraye divides his time between lectures and research in diverse fields as he believes in multi-disciplinary approaches. These are not limited to psychology but encompass e-learning, sustainability, public health and even e-commerce.



Ms Medha Devi Gokhul

OU Board Member (Appointed by the Board w.e.f. 26 October 2022)

Ms Medha Devi Gokhul holds the post of Administrative Officer at the Open University of Mauritius (OU).

She started her career in the private sector before joining the Ex-Mauritius College of the Air (Ex-MCA). She then opted to be transferred to the permanent and pensionable establishment of the Open University in July 2012. She has an in-depth knowledge of HR policies, rules, regulations and procedures applicable to the parastatal sector and also has a long experience in the management of Administrative/Human Resource matters at different levels in the sector.

She is presently a member of the Audit Committee of OU and of the Management Team of OU.

She is also the Chairperson of the Anti-Corruption Committee (ACC) for OU.

She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from UNISA and an MBA with Specialisation in HRM from OU.



Dr Kaviraj Sharma Sukon, PFHEA

Director-General and OU Board Member

Dr K S Sukon, Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK), is the Founder Director-General of the Open University of Mauritius – the first local ISO-Certified public university in Mauritius. After nearly ten years of operation under the leadership of Dr Sukon, the Open University of Mauritius has over 13,000 learners and is financially independent.

He is also the Chairman of the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council. He has been the Chairman of the Board of the Mauritius College of the Air and Mauritius Museums Council. He has previously worked at the University of Mauritius and the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate.

Afterwards, he joined HRDC as the Manager-Research/Head of the Research and Consultancy Division where he led the development of the first National Human Resource Development Plan. He prepared The Peer Review Report on educational reforms in Mauritius, 2000-2005; UNESS (UNESCO National Education Support Strategy) for Mauritius in 2010; and the National Employment Policy for Mauritius in 2011.

Dr Sukon has developed a new method called the Two-parameter Alternative Group Explicit (TAGE) Iterative Method for the Solution of a Tridiagonal Linear System of Equations. He has coined the term “blerning” for blended learning in order to consider this method of learning as an integrated approach

rather than a mix. In October 2021, he developed the new model: A Practical (blended) Teaching and “Blearning” Model. This model has been published in the impact factor journal: *Ubiquitous Learning: An International Journal*.

He has led the (a) development of the first National Human Resource Development Plan for Mauritius; (b) marking of the first International CIE Mathematics paper in Mauritius; and (c) establishment of the Open University of Mauritius.

He has been a consultant for several organisations including UNESCO, ILO, UNDP and ADEA. He has published research papers and supervised several master’s and doctoral theses. He has been a member of the Senate of University of Mauritius, and Academic Council of University of Technology, Mauritius. He also holds an honorary position at Imperial College London, UK.

Dr Sukon is also a Director on the Board of the OU Campus Development Ltd, a company set up by the Open University as a Special Purpose Vehicle to construct the new campus.



Mrs Subhashini Luckshmi Devi Gopee
Registrar & Secretary to the Board

Mrs S Gopee is the Registrar of the Open University of Mauritius since January 2017.

She has a BSc (General) from the University of Delhi and an MSc in Quality Management from the University of Mauritius.

Prior to joining the Open University of Mauritius, Mrs Gopee had worked for over fifteen years at the middle managerial level in a public tertiary education institution. She also served for five years in the public sector in the technical field and had been an Education Officer in a private secondary school at the beginning of her career.

Mrs Gopee is also the Secretary to the Board of the OU Campus Development Ltd.

PRINCIPLE 4 - DUTIES AND REMUNERATION OF BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND PERFORMANCE

As the conditions of service and salaries of staff of the Open University of Mauritius are governed by the Pay Research Bureau (PRB) Regulations, the remuneration of Board members is also determined using the rates stipulated in the *PRB Report 2021*.

During the period under review, the Chairperson of the Open University drew a monthly fee of Rs40,000 plus transport allowance in line with the recommendations of *PRB Report 2021*.

The Board meetings are held in line with the schedule (Sections 2 and 23) of the statutes of the Open University of Mauritius Act.

1. Attendance and Remuneration at Board Meetings of members appointed in 2022

Membership	Name/Position	Attendance for the period from July 2022 to June 2023 (Total out of 11 meetings)	Remuneration received during the period from July 2022 to June 2023 Rs
Chairperson	Dr O N Nath Varma, OSK	11	4,125
2 Executive Heads of local public tertiary education institutions having developed partnerships with the Open University	Dr H Bessoondyal <i>Director</i> Mauritius Institute of Education	10 (9 in person and 1 by Zoom)	25,000
	Prof. S K Sobhee <i>Vice-Chancellor</i> University of Mauritius	10 (8 in person and 2 by Zoom)	25,000
2 persons who shall have substantial knowledge and experience of tertiary education and open and distance learning	Dr M I Alladin <i>Management Consultant</i>	9	25,875
	Mr S Gangoo <i>Ag. Rector</i> Sookdeo Bissoondoyal State College	4	11,500
1 person from the private sector and shall have substantial industrial experience	Mrs A Appadoo <i>Managing Director</i> Dale Carnegie Mauritius	5 (2 in person and 3 by Zoom)	13,250
1 person from the public sector	Mr M Boodhun <i>Permanent Secretary</i> Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science & Technology (w.e.f. 07 June 2022)	1	2,875

Membership	Name/Position	Attendance for the period from July 2022 to June 2023 (Total out of 11 meetings)	Remuneration received during the period from July 2022 to June 2023 Rs
1 person from the public sector	Prof. (Dr) K Bhujun <i>Director</i> Tertiary Education & Scientific Research, Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science & Technology (w.e.f. 05 August 2022)	7	20,125
1 person from civil society and engaged in community service	Mr L Teeluck <i>Former Deputy Rector</i> Collège du Saint-Esprit	11	31,625
1 person elected by and from the academic staff	Mr M Sohoraye <i>Lecturer</i> Open University of Mauritius	11	27,500
1 person elected by and from the general staff	Ms M D Gokhul <i>Administrative Officer</i> Open University of Mauritius (w.e.f. 26 October 2022)	7	17,500
The Director-General	Dr K S Sukon PFHEA Open University of Mauritius	10	25,000
	Mrs S L D Gopee <i>Registrar</i> Open University of Mauritius (Acted as Officer-in-Charge)	1	2,500

2. Attendance and Remuneration at Finance Committee Meetings

Membership	Name/Position	Attendance for the period from July 2022 to June 2023 (Total out of 7 meetings)	Remuneration received during the period from July 2022 to June 2023 Rs
Chairperson	Prof. S K Sobhee <i>Vice-Chancellor</i> University of Mauritius	7	38,500
Members	Dr K S Sukon, PFHEA <i>Director-General</i> Open University of Mauritius	6	15,000
	Mrs S L D Gopee <i>Registrar (acted as Officer-in-Charge)</i> Open University of Mauritius	1	2,500
	Mr S Gangoo <i>Ag. Rector</i> Sookdeo Bissoondoyal State College	2	5,750
	Mr L Teeluck <i>Former Deputy Rector</i> Collège du Saint-Esprit	7	20,125
	Mrs A Appadoo <i>Managing Director</i> Dale Carnegie Mauritius	2	5,750
Co-opted Member	Mrs B N K Hosany <i>Manager Financial Operations</i> Ministry of Education & Human Resources, Tertiary Education & Scientific Research	2	5,750

3. Attendance and Remuneration at Human Resource Committee Meetings

Membership	Name/Position	Attendance for the period from July 2022 to June 2023 (Total out of 26 meetings)	Remuneration received during the period from July 2022 to June 2023 Rs
Chairperson	Prof. (Dr) K Bhujun <i>Director, Tertiary Education & Scientific Research</i> Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science & Technology	25	138,375
Members	Dr K S Sukon, PFHEA <i>Director-General</i> Open University of Mauritius	26	50,400
	Prof. S K Sobhee <i>Vice-Chancellor</i> University of Mauritius	22 (1 as Chairperson)	43,125
	Dr H Bessoondyal <i>Director</i> Mauritius Institute of Education	26	51,525
	Mr L Teeluck <i>Former Deputy Rector</i> Collège du Saint-Esprit	26	54,675

4. Attendance and Remuneration at Planning and Monitoring Committee Meetings

Membership	Name/Position	Attendance for the period from July 2022 to June 2023 (Total out of 3 meetings)	Remuneration received during the period from July 2022 to June 2023 Rs
Chairperson	Dr M I Alladin <i>Management Consultant</i>	3	17,625
Members	Dr K S Sukon, PFHEA <i>Director-General</i> Open University of Mauritius	3	6,300
	Dr H Bessoondyal <i>Director</i> Mauritius Institute of Education	3	6,300

Membership	Name/Position	Attendance for the period from July 2022 to June 2023 (Total out of 3 meetings)	Remuneration received during the period from July 2022 to June 2023 Rs
Members	Mr M Sohoraye <i>Lecturer</i> Open University of Mauritius	3	6,300
	Mr V Patten <i>Team Leader Quality Assurance</i> Open University of Mauritius	3	6,300

5. Attendance and Remuneration at Audit Committee Meetings

Membership	Name/Position	Attendance for the period from July 2022 to June 2023 (Total out of 2 meetings)	Remuneration received during the period from July 2022 to June 2023 Rs
Chairperson	Dr H Bessoondyal <i>Director</i> Mauritius Institute of Education	2	5,200
Members	Dr M I Alladin <i>Management Consultant</i>	2	4,950
	Ms M D Gokhul <i>Administrative Officer</i> Open University of Mauritius	2	4,950

6. Attendance and Remuneration at Corporate Governance Committee Meetings

Membership	Name/Position	Attendance for the period from July 2022 to June 2023 (Total out of 1 meeting)	Remuneration received during the period from July 2022 to June 2023 Rs
Chairperson	Mr S Gangoo <i>Ag. Rector</i> Sookdeo Bissoondoyal State College	1	2,975
Members	Mrs S L D Gopee <i>Registrar (acted as Officer-in-Charge of OU)</i> Open University of Mauritius	1	2,100
	Dr M I Alladin <i>Management Consultant</i>	1	2,475
	Mrs A Appadoo <i>Managing Director</i> Dale Carnegie Mauritius	0	0

7. Attendance and Remuneration at the Academic Council Meetings

Membership	Name/Position	Attendance for the period from July 2022 to June 2023 (Total out of 2 meetings)	Remuneration received during the period from July 2022 to June 2023 Rs
Chairperson	Dr K S Sukon, PFHEA <i>Director-General</i> Open University of Mauritius	2	-
The Executive Director of the Tertiary Education Commission or his Representative	Prof. R Mohee <i>Commissioner</i> Higher Education Commission	-	-
Representative of the University of Mauritius	Dr S Rosunee <i>Associate Professor</i> University of Mauritius	2	4,200
Representative of the University of Technology, Mauritius	Dr D K Hurreeram <i>Director-General</i> University of Technology, Mauritius	1	2,475

Membership	Name/Position	Attendance for the period from July 2022 to June 2023 (Total out of 2 meetings)	Remuneration received during the period from July 2022 to June 2023 Rs
Representative of the University of Technology, Mauritius	Dr S Panchoo <i>Representative of Director-General</i> University of Technology, Mauritius	1	2,475
The Chief Technical Officer of the Ministry responsible for the subject of education or his representative	Dr R Auckbur <i>Chief Technical Officer</i> (Education)	-	-
2 representatives of public tertiary level institutions having developed partnerships with the Open University, to be nominated by the Minister	Vacant	-	-
The Director of Academic Affairs	Dr U Subadar Agathee <i>Director Academic Affairs Division</i> Open University of Mauritius (until 02 June 2023)	1	2,100
Representative of Director of Multimedia Division and ICT Division	Mr A Beekharry <i>Senior Systems Analyst</i> Open University of Mauritius	2	2,100
Representative of Director, Quality Assurance & Capacity Building	Mr V Patten <i>Head, Graphics, Publishing & Printing</i> Open University of Mauritius	1	2,100
3 Heads of Schools, Centres or Units of the Open University of Mauritius, to be nominated by the Director-General	Vacant	-	-
	Mr S Nunkoo <i>Financial Controller</i> Open University of Mauritius	2	4,200

3 Heads of Schools, Centres or Units of the Open University of Mauritius, to be nominated by the Director-General	Dr P Appavoo <i>Senior Academic Media Coordinator and Officer Responsible for Research Office at OU</i>	2	4,200
Representative of learners to be nominated by the Board	Vacant	-	-
Representative of the academic staff elected by and from the academic staff	Mr P Dookhun <i>Lecturer</i> Open University of Mauritius	2	4,200
Such other members, not exceeding 3 in number, as may be co-opted by the Board, including one person with experience and interest in research	Mr B Seetanah <i>Associate Professor</i> University of Mauritius	2	4,200
	Dr R Nunkoo <i>Senior Lecturer</i> University of Mauritius	-	-

Fees paid to the Chairperson and members of the Departmental Bid Committee were as follows:

Membership	Name/Position	Attendance for the period from July 2022 to June 2023 (Total out of 71 meetings)	Remuneration received during the period from July 2022 to June 2023 Rs
Chairperson	Dr Kaviraj Sharma Sukon, PFHEA <i>Director-General</i>	57	25,080
Chairperson	Mrs Subhashini Luckshmi Devi Gopee, <i>Registrar</i>	8	3,520
Chairperson	Mr Vel Veerabudren <i>Deputy Registrar</i>	1	440
Chairperson	Dr Ushad Subadar Agathee <i>Director (Academic Affairs Division)</i>	5	2,200
Member	Mr Satyaprakash Nunkoo <i>Financial Controller</i>	64	23,040

Membership	Name/Position	Attendance for the period from July 2022 to June 2023 (Total out of 71 meetings)	Remuneration received during the period from July 2022 to June 2023 Rs
Member	Mrs Bibi Nooreena Auckburally <i>Accountant</i>	7	2,520
Member	Mr Patrick Sydney Arlanda <i>Senior Procurement & Supply Officer (Purchasing)</i>	2	720
Member	Mrs Dhanwantee Chatooh <i>Senior Procurement & Supply Officer (Stores)</i>	62	22,320
Member	Mr Vishnoo Thanthonee <i>Procurement & Supply Officer (Purchasing)</i>	5	1,800
Member	Mrs Vasseni Rangan <i>Assistant Procurement & Supply Officer (Stores)</i>	1	360
Member	Mrs Kavina Havaga Pillay <i>Assistant Procurement & Supply Officer (Purchasing)</i>	1	360

Following the opening of the quotations, officers in the grade of Deputy Registrar, Administrative Officers, Higher Executive Officers, Executive Officers, Clerk/Word Processing Operators were called upon to act as chairperson/member/secretary of the Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC).

COMMITTEE OF NEEDS

The Committee of Needs of OU operates in line with the provisions of the Public Procurement Act 2006. The role of the Committee of Needs is to plan and monitor the procurement activities of the organisation.

EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The Board of the Open University of Mauritius has to develop a policy for evaluating the performance of Board members. However, in the meantime, the performance of Board members is assessed continuously by the Chairperson through observation and discussions.

The Chairperson ensures that

- all members are given the opportunity to participate in discussions;
- members do not divert from the agenda;

- the discussions are geared towards enabling an informed decision being taken on matters under consideration; and
- the knowledge and experience of members are effectively harnessed while performing their duties.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST BY BOARD MEMBERS

The Registrar keeps a record of the declaration of conflict of interests by Board members. Whenever a member declares conflict of interests, he/she leaves the meeting room while the item concerned is being discussed and a decision taken as required in Statute 1(3) of the Open University Act.

BOARD INFORMATION

The Board has unrestricted access to the University's related information, including that of its employees.

Heads of Sections or their Representatives are called in at Board meetings as and when required to provide additional information and clarifications regarding items on the agenda.

During the 2022/23 financial year, the Board held 11 meetings.

Below is a summary of the main topics handled by the Board during the period under review:

- a) Appointment of full-time staff
- b) Review and approval of financial reports
- c) Schemes of Service and other Human Resources matters
- d) Several matters regarding the acquisition of office equipment/services
- e) Details of joint ventures and collaborative agreements
- f) Open University Annual Report 2021/22
- g) Participation in Training, Missions and Workshops by OU staff
- h) Appointment of International Faculties
- i) Appointment of Project Management Consultant for the Construction of New Campus at Côte d'Or project
- j) New policies and review of existing policies.

All Board members have signed a confidentiality undertaking to keep all information and issues discussed at Board meetings confidential. Members of the Board are not allowed to divulge any information to any other person/employee or authority without the express authorisation of the Board.

The Code of Ethics approved by the Board addresses how employees should behave including while handling information.

PRINCIPLE 5 - RISK GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL

Risk Assessment

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the Open University of Mauritius has identified the risks in its processes and the procedure for controlling, avoiding, and addressing those risks.

Accordingly, each section has identified major risks associated with their processes based on a risk matrix and suggested actions to be taken to either prevent or control them as well as actions to be taken in case the risks occurred.

The Open University of Mauritius has been successfully certified for ISO 9001:2015 by the Mauritius Standards Bureau.

Under the ISO 9001:2015 requirements, the Open University of Mauritius has carried out its risk assessment and has ensured that risks are properly addressed.

The Government adopted a Key Performance Indicator (KPI), namely the conduct of Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) in Ministries and Departments (among other KPIs) to promote integrity in the Public Service and to accelerate the process of transformation. For the Financial Year 2021-2022, the Government has adopted a new KPI: the conduct of 2 Corruption Risk Assessments by Parastatal Bodies and State-Owned Enterprises.

Thus, Parastatal Bodies and State-Owned Enterprises were requested by the Parent Ministry to set up an Anti-Corruption Committee (ACC) at their level and to ensure that their respective ACC conduct two (2) Corruption Risk Assessments (CRAs): one on the procurement function and the second one on another risk area in the organisation.

OU has thus set up an Anti-Corruption Committee (ACC) and has conducted two (2) Corruption Risk Assessments (CRAs). One was on the Procurement function and the second one was on the Revenue Collection function of the organisation as at June 2023.

Internal Control

The management has written procedures for its various processes which ensures that staff are aware of how to proceed with their duties. In addition, the Open University of Mauritius has established control procedures for its processes. Supervision and cross-checking of records, claims, figures, etc. are mandatory for all procedures involving the release of payments, remunerations, allowances, etc. No payment is issued without proof of approval from the relevant authority. For example, for payment of fees to service providers, the signed contracts as per tenders approved by the Board are verified and provided as evidence.

In addition, for all approval of payments, there are different Controlling Officers and Authorising Officers to ensure that the claims for payments are verified at two levels before being sent to the Finance Division. The Finance Division also exercises control over the claims for payments by cross-checking the claims with relevant approvals.

Payment of fees by learners is another aspect where the mechanism of internal control is exercised.

The Internal Audit function is yet another mechanism for ensuring that the internal control system is functioning properly.

PRINCIPLE 6 - REPORTING WITH INTEGRITY

The Board of the Open University of Mauritius is responsible for the preparation of an annual report which comprises the following:

- Corporate Governance Report
- Report on activities
- Financial Statements and Accounts that fairly represent the state of affairs of the OU.

The financial statements are submitted to the Board for approval upon the recommendations of the Finance Committee not later than three months after the end of the financial year. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs) issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standard Board (IPSASB) and Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act.

The annual report is approved by the Board not later than three months after the end of the financial year and submitted to the National Audit Office not later than four months after the end of the financial year as per the requirement of the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act.

Upon receipt of the report of the National Audit Office, the annual report is finalised and submitted to the parent Ministry for tabling at the National Assembly for the attention of members of the Government, one of the major stakeholders of the Open University and the other members of the National Assembly.

The annual report is posted on the website of the Open University of Mauritius for consultation by all its other stakeholders.

In order to disseminate information on its various activities, policies, procedures and plans to its stakeholders, the Open University of Mauritius has also posted the following documents on its website:

- The Open University of Mauritius Act No. 2 of 2010
- The Vision and Mission Statement of the Open University of Mauritius
- The Strategic Plan 2017-25 of the Open University of Mauritius
- The Organisational Chart of the Open University of Mauritius
- The General Rules and Regulations for Learners
- The Programme Documents
- Information on Fees
- The Code of Ethics of the Open University of Mauritius
- The IT Policy of the Open University of Mauritius
- Anti-Assault, Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment Policy
- Equal Opportunity Policy
- Anti-Corruption Policy

The Open University endeavours to conduct its activities by ensuring that:

- there is no adverse impact on the environment;
- all persons are treated equally without any discrimination as stipulated in its Act;
- it fulfils its responsibilities to the best of its capabilities while maintaining the highest ethical standards as outlined in its Code of Ethics and abiding by the Code of Corporate Governance; and
- it provides a safe and secure environment for its employees to work in.

Environment

One of the ways the Open University of Mauritius is contributing to the preservation of the environment is through the use of information and communication technologies for the dissemination of its learning materials.

The Open University of Mauritius offers learners the opportunity to learn at their own place and pace. Instead of producing printed materials, OU posts all its learning materials on the e-learn platform which is downloadable via the Internet. OU is also embarking on implementing paperless meetings and is already disposing of waste paper to recycling companies. Thus, OU strives to contribute toward reducing the use of paper and recycling waste.

In order to continuously improve our work processes, the Open University of Mauritius is developing various software systems for admissions, recruitment, student information systems, etc. In addition, it is ensuring judicious use of all its resources through energy-saving measures.

Corporate Social Responsibility

In an endeavour to assist the most vulnerable persons in society, the Open University of Mauritius employs three persons having disabilities. It also offers personalised tutoring to disabled students.

Ethics

The Open University of Mauritius has developed its Code of Ethics which stipulates inter alia the following:

The Code of Ethics is fundamental to OU values. The primary purpose of the Code of Ethics is to maintain a professional and safe environment in which the OU community can work and learn to promote a culture of fair and ethical behaviour while ensuring that the University meets its obligations.

The Code stipulates

- Personal and professional behaviour
- Academic Integrity
- Disclosure of information
- Conflict of Interests
- Equal Opportunity
- Use of University Resources
- Intellectual Property
- Statement to the Press and Social Media

as applicable to its employees to enable them to maintain the highest standard of integrity and professionalism while delivering their duties.

Safety and Health

OU strives to provide its employees and learners with a safe and healthy work environment.

The safety and health of everyone on our premises and campuses is our major priority. We have a 24-hour insurance cover for all members of staff. OU also subsidises the medical insurance scheme for its staff.

A part-time Safety and Health Officer is employed at OU, in line with the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2005. The Safety and Health Officer's role is to ensure that the organisation's premises are appropriately set up for a Safe and Healthy learning and working environment.

Safety and Health Committee

Open University has set up the Safety and Health Committee in conformity with the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2005. The minutes of proceedings following meetings held are transmitted to the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training.

The terms of reference of the Committee are to:

- a) Establish communication between employees and management;
- b) Provide a Safe and Healthy workplace;
- c) Reduce risks and hazards at the worksites so far as is reasonably practicable;
- d) Conform to statutory and regulatory requirements;
- e) Establish, implement and review safe working practices; and
- f) Adopt an integrated approach towards safety and health at work by seeking the collaboration, cooperation and participation of all employees.

A risk assessment is carried out by the Safety and Health Officer once every two years, whereby possible risks are identified and alleviated so far as is reasonably practicable. The purpose of the Risk Assessment is to provide a Safe and Healthy Environment for staff, students and visitors.

In accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2005, a Fire Drill is organised once every year in order to get the occupants of OU premises acquainted with the procedures of evacuation so that they can react promptly during a real emergency situation.

To ensure a safe working environment, some 15 staff have been trained in Lift Rescue by Data Engineering Ltd on how to rescue a person stuck in the passenger lift.

The Open University of Mauritius has an Injury/Illness Procedure which is followed in case any staff member or student is sick/injured on the premises. An Injury Committee as well as a Department Board Committee has been set up to analyse cases of injury and to ensure that same does not recur.

The composition of the Safety and Health Committee was reviewed to give the opportunity to all members of staff to be part of the Safety and Health Committee. The composition of the Safety and Health Committee is reviewed every 2 years.

PRINCIPLE 7 - AUDIT

(i) Internal Audit

The Internal Auditor is required to carry out audit activities as per an Audit Plan and submit her report on findings to the Audit Committee which makes recommendations on the same to the Board.

The Internal Auditor carries out her duties with all independence and she is given access to facilities for the same by management.

The Director-General is not a member of the Audit Committee and this ensures that the Internal Auditor performs her duties and reports her findings independently.

The Internal Auditor is free to perform day-to-day auditing of financial transactions and processes.

(ii) External Audit

The Annual Report 2021/22 was submitted to the External Auditor in October 2022. The external auditors were at the Open University from December 2022 to March 2023. They were provided with all the information and documents they required for carrying out their audit.

The Management letter was received on 24 March 2023 and a reply was sent to the National Audit Office on 04 April 2023. The Audit Certificate was issued by the National Audit Office on 13 April 2022.

The Open University of Mauritius has, therefore, made provision for an independent internal audit function as well as for submitting its annual report to the External Auditor.

PRINCIPLE 8 - RELATIONS WITH SHAREHOLDERS AND OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The Open University of Mauritius has excellent relations with the parent Ministry, one of its major shareholders. OU maintains constant communication with the parent Ministry either through correspondence or by attending meetings held thereat.

The Director-General attended meetings with the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister on several occasions during the year under review and the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister graced several functions and workshops organised by the Open University of Mauritius. The Chairperson also met the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister occasionally to discuss on matters of the Open University of Mauritius.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board members of the Open University of Mauritius acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (i) Adequate accounting records and maintenance of effective internal control systems;
- (ii) The preparation of financial statements which fairly present the state of affairs of OU as at the end of the financial year and the results of its operations and cash flows for that period and which comply with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS); and
- (iii) The selection of appropriate accounting policies supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates.

The External Auditors (National Audit Office) are responsible for reporting on whether the financial statements are fairly presented.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The Members of the OU Board affirm that:

- (i) Adequate accounting records and an effective system of internal controls have been maintained;
- (ii) Appropriate accounting policies supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates have been used consistently;
- (iii) Applicable accounting standards have been adhered to;
- (iv) The Code of Corporate Governance as applicable to Statutory Bodies has been adhered to. Explanations have been provided on how the Code has been applied; and
- (v) The provisions of Part V of the Procurement Act regarding the bidding exercise have been complied with.

Signed on behalf of the OU Board Members.



Dr O N Nath Varma, OSK
Chairperson of Board
Open University of Mauritius

29 September 2023



Dr K S Sukon, PFHEA
Director-General
Open University of Mauritius

29 September 2023

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT FOR INTERNAL CONTROL

The Open University of Mauritius Board acknowledges its responsibility for the setting up of an adequate system of internal controls and for the setting up of appropriate policies to provide reasonable assurance that the control objectives have been attained. The activities of the University are closely monitored by the Board and its sub-committees. Procedures and policies are well documented and consistently applied. Management has the relevant experience and skills to ensure the proper running of the University. There is no history of fraud and irregularities.

The role of Management includes:

- identifying and evaluating the risks faced;
- formulating related policies and procedures to manage these risks;
- designing, operating and monitoring a suitable system of internal controls; and
- implementing the policies approved by the Board.

Internal Audit Function

The Internal Auditor reports to the Audit Committee on audit work carried out.



Dr O N Nath Varma, OSK
Chairperson of Board
Open University of Mauritius

29 September 2023



Dr K S Sukon, PFHEA
Director-General
Open University of Mauritius

29 September 2023

OVERVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY



OU consists of six Divisions: The Academic Affairs Division, the Open School Division, the Administration Division, the Finance Division, the Multimedia and ICT Services Division and the Quality Assurance and Capacity Building Division. Each Division is made up of several sections and Units.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE DIVISIONS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION

The Academic Affairs Division (AAD) is responsible for the academic programmes and academic support operations of the University. The AAD administers Open Distance Learning (ODL) and full-time programmes. It manages the delivery of ODL and full-time programmes and plans, designs and develops programmes/courses. The AAD develops course material for ODL including Instructional Design, lays down academic policies and formulates regulations for teaching and research. It is also responsible for the management of OU study centres across the island and Rodrigues.

The AAD provides main support services to learners and tutors during the delivery of programmes. The AAD is actively involved in induction sessions organised for new learners as well as Convocation Ceremonies held for graduates. It is also involved in research activities including academic publication and organising activities which could help the community at large.

The AAD further explores partnerships with higher educational institutions at both national and international levels. The partnerships with CILT (UK), UNISA, Commonwealth of Learning and Imperial College London have played an extremely important role in shaping OU and has enhanced OU's visibility at both national and international levels.

The AAD falls under the supervision of a Director Academic Affairs who is assisted in his duties by a team comprising full-time and part-time academics, a technical cadre, administrative officers and administrative support staff.

The Collaboration and Partnerships Unit, the Research Office and the Examinations Unit also form part of the AAD.

Collaboration and Partnerships Unit

The Collaboration and Partnerships Unit is responsible for processing approval of new partnerships of OU with other organisations. So far, OU has developed partnership with several national and international organisations. Some of OU's main partners are UNISA, the Commonwealth of Learning and Imperial College London. These partners have supported OU since its first days. Over the years, OU has strengthened these partnerships through collaborative projects, which has resulted in enhanced visibility of OU at both national and international levels. This also attracted other universities, like UKZN, Botswana Open University, Chandigarh University and even non-academic organisations such as the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC), Advance HE (UK) and Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (UK) to collaborate with OU, thereby enabling it to establish working relationships with prestigious networks and clusters at national and international levels including Association of Commonwealth Universities, International Council of Distance Education, African Council of Distance Education, and Distance Education Association of Southern Africa.

A Technical Officer/Senior Technical Officer (Research) is in charge of the Unit and is assisted in the daily discharge of his duties, by administrative support staff.

Research Office

The Research Office (RO) is mandated to develop and implement appropriate policies and guidelines for undertaking research and managing research funds allocated to all researchers at the University. The RO develops research collaboration with external bodies, including national, international, multilateral agencies, NGOs and other universities. The RO is responsible for developing a code of conduct and ethical practices in research, including clear procedures for ensuring compliance with ethical practices in research (e.g. plagiarism, copying, intellectual property rights, etc.). The RO thus promotes the use of research output to make informed choices in the programme and course development processes and sets procedures and instruments for monitoring and evaluating institutional research productivity.

The RO is also responsible for the organisation of research conferences and seminars for OU.

A Senior Academic Media Coordinator is responsible for the smooth running of the activities of the Research Office, and he is supported in the daily discharge of his duties by administrative support staff, Research Assistants and Academics as and when required.

OPEN SCHOOL DIVISION

The Open School Division (OSD) is the corporate arm of OU. It designs, develops and delivers training programmes based on industry requirements to meet specific training needs of the labour market for the public sector and at times, for the private sector as well. It works in close collaboration with the Civil Service College, Mauritius, to upgrade the skills of public officers. It also supports other institutions in their capacity-building endeavours. The OSD contributes to the training needs of a whole range of learners, from officers of various cadres of the Public Service and corporate staff to fresh graduates and job seekers in need of employability skills.

Together with the Audio-Visual Production Unit, the OSD is also responsible for the production of curriculum-based video lessons for the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology. The OSD also oversees the development of contents and the design of those curriculum-based video lessons in order to support independent learning. The OSD works in collaboration with the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) and educators.

The Director AAD oversees the division with the collaboration of a team comprising a Senior Academic Media Coordinator, Academic Media Coordinators, full-time/part-time Academics, an Administrative Officer, administrative support staff and Research Assistants.

Examinations Unit

The Examinations Unit is responsible for establishing an effective and transparent assessment and evaluation system to meet the expectations of the Academia and the learners. The Unit has the responsibility to administer examinations, to manage the paper setting process, to conduct the examinations, for the markings and the proclamation of results, for the remunerations of contributors, for the enlistment of examiners/moderators/invigilators, and for the preparation of the examinations calendar.

The Unit is mandated to conduct examinations as well as to process and declare the results twice yearly.

The Deputy Registrar is responsible for the Examinations Unit under the purview of the Director of Academic Affairs, and he is supported, in the daily discharge of his duties, by staff in the Examination and Administrative cadres and administrative support staff.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The Administration Division coordinates the activities of OU and is responsible for the overall general administration functions, security of the office premises, Secretariat to the Departmental Bid Committee, legal matters, human resource matters, marketing activities, admission of learners, convocation ceremonies, organisation of events, welfare and safety of staff and organisation of examinations.

The Registrar's Office provides services to all Statutory Committees and is responsible for the dissemination of the decision of these committees to all other Divisions and sections for implementation. The Registrar's Office also ensures necessary coordination with the Project Management Consultant hired for the Construction of the New Campus at Côte d'Or.

The Registrar is responsible for the smooth running of the Administration Division, and she is supported in the daily discharge of her duties by the Deputy Registrar, the Marketing and Development Officer, Administrative Officers, and the Health and Safety Officer who are in charge of their respective Units.

General Administration

The General Administration and Management Units are responsible for the general administrative/management functions at OU.

The Open Registry is responsible for the general registry functions for all incoming/outgoing mails and the updating as well as the safekeeping of general administrative files including contractual management files on general services and records, for the deployment of the ancillary staff, security services, safety and health matters, cleaning services, parking control and welfare/event activities.

The Confidential Registry is responsible for the management of confidential files and records of the University and acts as the Secretariat to the DBC.

The Transport Unit is responsible for the management of the fleet of OU vehicles and of its logistics including deployment of the Drivers.

The General Administration and Management Units are under the supervision of two Administrative Officers who are assisted in their duties by their administrative support staff, ancillary staff and contractual employees.

Human Resources Unit

The Human Resources (HR) Unit has the mandate to develop sound HR policies and procedures to meet the needs of the University while ensuring compliance with established procedures applicable to parastatal bodies based on guidelines of the HRM Manual of the Ministry for Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms (MPSAIR) and on the provisions of the *PRB Report*, MPSAIR Circulars and the Regulations as well as per the policies of the Board.

The Unit manages the daily staff matters, monitoring of attendance, leave management, welfare of staff and ensures the application of all rules and regulations while processing all human resource issues like recruitment, posting, retirement, performance management system, staff development and training programmes, disciplinary matters, industrial relations, and so on. The HR Unit also provides support to the HR Committee.

An Administrative Officer is in charge of the Unit, and she is assisted, in the daily discharge of her duties, by administrative support staff.

Marketing and Public Relations Unit

The Marketing and Public Relations (MPR) Unit is responsible for the overall marketing and public relations strategies of OU. The strategies comprise communication through multiple media and the organisation of events to promote the OU brand and to inform various audiences about OU's programmes, vision, mission and specificities. Each year, MPR plans and executes two major communication campaigns and a number of events, including Convocation Ceremonies and Inductions of new learners in collaboration with other Divisions/Units. The MPR Unit is in constant interaction with the public and with a variety of stakeholders from both the public and private sectors.

The Marketing and Development Officer is responsible for the Unit and he is assisted, in the daily discharge of his duties, by a team of administrative and technical cadres.

Admissions Office

The Admissions Office is responsible for the processing of all applications from prospective learners, both local and international and for their enrolment procedures. The Office provides relevant and accurate information to prospective learners, issues offer letters to applicants, registers the new learners, issues learner ID cards to newly registered learners, bus pass to registered full-time learners and processes visa facilities for international learners. It also addresses requests for module(s) exemption and assists and ensures counselling sessions to prospective learners throughout the registration process and module registration. It provides student support services and also assists in the organisation of convocation ceremonies.

An Administrative Officer is in charge of the Admissions Office, and she is assisted in the daily discharge of her duties, by administrative support staff.

Certification Unit

The Certification Unit (CU) is committed to ensure that learners who have successfully completed all requirements for an award are issued their certificates. A certificate is a formal confirmation by OU that the awardee has demonstrated the knowledge, skills and competence required to achieve the named award. The Unit initiates necessary action in the design of new certificate templates and attends to queries received from OU stakeholders.

The Unit is also responsible for the compilation of the list of awardees for the Convocation Ceremony and for the issue of Certificates to OU's successful learners.

An Administrative Officer is in charge of the Unit and she is assisted in the daily discharge of her duties, by administrative support staff.

Help Desk Unit

The Help Desk Unit (HDU) provides a platform to enable OU learners/stakeholders as well as prospective learners to get prompt assistance. The HDU aims at easing learners' lives by providing them with a single point of contact for all their queries and in case they need any assistance.

The Unit acts as a facilitator between the learners/external stakeholders and the various Divisions/Units of OU, ensuring that the queries and complaints submitted by email, phone or in-person are addressed effectively and in real time while maintaining confidentiality, in line with the policies of OU.

An Administrative Officer is in charge of the Unit, and he is assisted in the daily discharge of his duties, by an administrative support staff.

FINANCE DIVISION

The mandate of the Finance Division is to manage the University's finance and to ensure that all statutory and legal requirements are complied with in finance, procurement and supplies management. The main activities of the division include the preparation of Budget, Payroll, Accounts as well as the collection of revenue, mainly from course fees, preparation of financial statements, the processing of all payments, the procurement/warehousing/stock control operations and the management of the e-procurement system and its operations.

The Finance, Stores and Procurement units operate under the Finance Division and each of these departments functions in conjunction so as to achieve financial soundness of OU's economic policy and develop the framework for the sound management of public finances and ensure implementation within set rules.

The Financial Controller is responsible for the smooth running of the division and he is supported, in the daily discharge of his duties, by an Accountant, staff in the Financial and Stores/Procurement cadre at different levels and administrative support staff.

MULTIMEDIA AND ICT DIVISION

The Multimedia and ICT Division is responsible for the provision of ICT, technical support, building maintenance services, printing and publishing services, as well as library services at OU. The division ensures that all equipment and building infrastructure are in proper working conditions and that OU has sufficient learning support materials to enable conducive learning for its learners and an optimum working environment is maintained for the staff. Thus, this division provides all the infrastructural and technological support in terms of hardware and software to staff and learners.

Services provided include building maintenance, provision of networking facilities, recording of tutorials, an e-learning platform for our learners to access same whenever they need to, internet facilities, email facilities, dissemination of information through website, email and sms/WhatsApp, e-library, professional printing and publishing services, recording of events like induction, convocation ceremonies, etc. OU also provides fully equipped computer laboratories as well as Wi-Fi facilities to its learners at its learning centres.

The Division consists of the following Units:

Student Affairs Unit

The Student Affairs Unit is responsible for the provision of a continuous online service to all its stakeholders and to ensure an online 24/7 support to all learners to enable them to access their learning materials anytime and anywhere. The Unit attends to queries from learners and tutors and also maintains an effective customer care service.

A Graphics Officer is responsible for the Unit and she is assisted in the discharge of her duties by an Assistant Documentation Officer, administrative support staff, trainees and Research Assistant.

Library Services Unit

The Library Services Unit supports the overall vision and mission of the Open University of Mauritius (OU). It complements the curriculum requirements of the University by providing printed and digital resources to support the teaching, learning and research endeavours of the OU community as a whole. The Library Services Unit manages two physical libraries and an online library (e-library) which has a vast collection of e-books, e-journals and other educational resources.

The Head, Library Services is responsible for the Library and is assisted, in the daily discharge of her duties, by Assistant Documentation Officer/Documentation Officers, an Administrative Officer and administrative support staff.

Information and Communication Technology Unit

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Unit is mandated to provide effective, efficient and collaborative IT services, solutions and strategies in a timely manner to support OU's strategic goals. As a partner, the Unit provides innovative and creative solutions and reliable information to staff and learners to help them in achieving their objectives and goals. The Unit has also assisted in identifying factors that contribute towards learners' satisfaction.

A Systems Analysts/Senior Systems Analyst has been assigned the responsibility to oversee the Unit with the collaboration of a System Engineer. These officers are assisted by staff in the IT cadre, administrative support staff and Research Assistants in the daily discharge of their duties.

Graphics, Publishing and Printing Unit

The Graphics, Publishing and Printing (GPP) Unit provides graphics services, copy editing services, offset lithography, digital printing and finishing services. The GPP provides in-house services to all the Units/Divisions of the University for all design and printing works. Quality objectives have been set to all the processes of GPP in order to produce quality end products.

Study manuals, booklets, posters, flyers, brochures, Graduation ceremony DVDs, certificates and annual reports are among the main products of GPP. The Parent Ministry, some state-owned organisations and UNESCO had recourse to the services of the GPP for the design and printing of their materials.

The Head, Graphics, Publishing and Printing is responsible for the Unit and he is assisted, in the daily discharge of his duties, by staff in the Graphics/Printing/Tradesman cadre, a Copy Editor, an Administrative Officer and administrative support staff.

Audio-Video Production Unit

The Audio-Video Production (AVP) Unit produces a wide range of audio-visual content including video lessons for the Student Support Programme (SSP), recordings of OU lectures and coverage of events, and also assists in the teaching of audio-visual modules. AVP Unit also provides support to the live streaming of induction sessions, the Parent Ministry's conferences and for the successful running of OU events and Convocation Ceremonies.

The AVP Unit's key achievements include the production of high-quality video lessons for the SSP, the provision of human resources for the live broadcasting of the National Assembly proceedings, and the recording of video addresses by Ministers and VVIPs.

The AVP Unit is committed to providing high-quality audio-visual services to OU learners and its other stakeholders. Significant investment is being made in the AVPU with latest state-of-the-art technologies. The upgrade is enabling the Unit to produce higher-quality video content and provide better services to its customers, internal and external.

A Senior Audio-Video Executive is responsible for the Unit and is assisted in the daily discharge of his duties, by a team of technical staff in the audio-visual cadre, an Administrative Officer and administrative support staff.

Engineering and Technology Services Unit

The Engineering and Technology Services (ETS) Unit is responsible for provision of office equipment, ICT hardware as well as infrastructural maintenance services to OU staff and students.

The broad aims and objectives of the Unit are to develop and maintain the physical and technical infrastructure of the institution to support the delivery of digital systems and services in both the staff and student domains.

The University has continuously invested in the acquisition of equipment and upgrading of the digital facilities at both Réduit and OUCC buildings including printers, laptops, scanners, desktop computers, photocopy machines, routers, servers and air-conditioning units. The ETS is the Unit responsible for initiating the procurement of equipment, their installation as well as their maintenance.

The Senior Technical Executive has been assigned the responsibility to oversee the Unit, and he is assisted in the daily discharge of his duties, by staff in the Technical and Tradesman cadre, an Administrative Officer and administrative support staff.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING DIVISION

The Quality Assurance and Capacity Building Division is responsible for the management of the Quality Assurance System (QAS) adopted at OU, in line with the recommendations of the Quality Audit by the then-Tertiary Education Commission and the Parent Ministry.

In line with the objectives set in the OU Strategic Plan, a Quality Policy Framework has been developed in consultation with renowned experts from the Commonwealth of Learning-Canada and experts from Australia.

The Division has a Quality Assurance Unit.

Quality Assurance Unit

The Quality Assurance (QA) Unit is responsible for the quality assurance systems at OU.

Quality Assurance constitutes a vital component in the operation of any Higher Education Institution and OU is no exception. The purpose of quality assurance at OU is to confirm that the work of learners has been quality assured to the appropriate standard through processes set in place that ensure the validity of a qualification when it is awarded to a learner. Without quality assurance, there would be nothing guaranteeing the validity of our qualifications.

The Quality Team is still in the process of being resourced with key personnel to take up the challenges set in the HE landscapes. The Quality Assurance Unit has been reinforced to assist in managing surveys.

Staff of the QA Unit have been provided with ongoing training to meet the new requirements set by the Quality Assurance Agency and Higher Education Commission which require the Quality Team to understand and embrace new skills and knowledge in delivering their duties efficiently.

The Head of Graphics, Publishing and Printing has been assigned the responsibility to oversee the Unit, and he is supported, in the daily discharge of his duties by Quality Assurance cadre, an Administrative Officer and administrative support staff.

TEACHING AND LEARNING



“...commends the Open University of Mauritius on the general commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.”

Source: Report of the First Cycle Quality Audit of the Open University of Mauritius, TEC, 2018

OU plays a pivotal role in enhancing access to flexible, affordable, and quality higher education through blended open and distance learning (ODL) mode to learners belonging to all social classes. OU was the first local public university to offer employability skills courses, and continues to provide the soft skills courses freely in order to ensure that its learners are employable.

ODL is the main way of combining work and family responsibilities with educational opportunities as it frees learners from the constraints of time and place. It provides the flexibility, the qualifications and the world-class teaching everyone desires. Learners can earn a qualification while working: they may wish to work part-time and study part-time; and others, including school leavers, can study full-time.

With its well-established blended learning strategy, supported by innovative study materials and videos, learners get an exceptional learning experience in their own time, at home, at work or wherever they choose – reading, watching or listening to materials supplied, working out course activities and assignments with regular support from their tutor who is always just an email away. Learners get nearly individual attention coupled with a number of face-to-face sessions organised during weekdays and on Saturdays. All the undergraduate and postgraduate modules have at least ten hours of optional face-to-face lectures delivered on-site.

A Quality Distance Education System by the Academic Affairs Division (AAD)

The AAD aims at providing the services offered by a quality Distance Education System through its functions:

- Administration of Open Distance Learning and full-time programmes
- Managing the delivery of Open Distance Learning and full-time programmes
- Planning, designing, developing and mounting programmes/courses
- Authoring of course material for ODL and Instructional Systems Design
- Training in ODL

Capacity Building for Academics

- Consultative Workshop on the Drafting of the Water Resources Bill held on 11 October 2022 at Westin Turtle Bay Resort and Spa, Balaclava
- Workshop on ‘Climate Change and Sustainability: Challenges and Opportunities’ held on 12 October 2022 at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre
- International Workshop on ‘Leveraging Innovations for Infrastructure Development and Sustainable Industrialisation held on 17, 18 November 2022 - Virtual Mode

- On-campus consultation on the Futures of Higher Education in Mauritius held on 03 May 2023, Lecture Theatre, Open University of Mauritius, Réduit
- Workshop on the Futures of Higher Education in Mauritius held on 17,18 May 2023 at the Hennessy Park Hotel, Ébène
- Workshop on SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway held on 12 June 2023 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
- 3-week Online Facilitation Workshop held on 05, 12, & 19 June 2023 – TEL COL Capacity Building

Course Development

Distance Education and E-Learning materials are at the heart of the operations of an open university and thus the design of OU's programmes is done with a lot of care. Following market surveys and preliminary discussions with stakeholders, the programme document is produced internally, analysed, validated by the Advisory Committee and approved by the Academic Council.

The programme document outlines the level of the programme, the objectives and learning outcomes, the programme duration, the entry requirements, the target audience, the content of the various modules as well as the assessment criteria. All of the University's programmes are continuously monitored to ensure that they remain relevant and up to date with the latest developments.

Design of ODL Materials

ODL materials have some conspicuous elements of instructional design in line with COL guidelines for course writing:

- Presentation of content into Units structured for self-learning;
- Learning outcomes-based writing of each Unit;
- 'Tutorial' mode of content explanation;
- Use of access and learning devices;
- Gradual embedding of teaching and learning;
- Self-assessment questions in line with the constructivist theory of learning; and
- Space provided for learners to write their answers – 'generous' layout with liberal use of 'white space'.

OU endeavours to produce learning materials that are purposeful, structured, learner-centred and paced as well as engaging.

The Academic Affairs Division plans, designs and develops the programmes/courses and it further authors course material for ODL including Instructional Design.

The Open School Division designs the short award courses to meet specific needs of learners and Public Officers in accordance with the recommendations of the *PRB Reports* and further produces and revamps learning materials for programmes and courses with the support of resource persons.

Courses on Offer

OU aims at providing a quality distance education system: it plans, designs and develops ODL programmes/courses and full-time programmes to help the community at large.

It also provides short tailor-made courses and has contributed immensely to the training of:

- Officers from various cadres in the Public Service in collaboration with the Civil Service College, Mauritius with the aim of upgrading their skills;
- Fresh graduates/young job seekers in employability skills; and
- Corporate staff in Management courses.

The University has offered 59 programmes through ODL mode in the year 2022/23 at various levels as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of Courses offered at Various levels in 2022/23

Sn	Level	Total Number of Courses per Level
1.	Certificate level	1
2.	Diploma level	5
3.	Degree Level (3-4 years)	32
4.	Master's/Postgraduate level	19
5.	Doctoral Level	2
	Total	59

Services from the Open School Division (OSD)

Short Programmes/Courses and Award Courses

General Foundation Programme

In line with its philosophy to democratise access to university education, OU offers Foundation Courses which aim at better preparing learners for higher education while allowing them to meet the minimum requirements to undertake undergraduate studies. This programme is offered twice yearly.

The Foundation Programme is thus offered to prospective learners who do not meet the minimum entry requirements to enrol for undergraduate programmes in general.

This programme consists of four subject courses over a one-year duration. It is offered twice yearly through Open Distance Learning (ODL) mode.

About 400 learners have followed or are following this programme between July 2022 and June 2023.

Specific Foundation Courses

OU also offers specific Foundation Programmes which enable an applicant to be eligible for a specific programme. In the year 2022/23, OU offered one such programme, namely the Foundation in Hotel

Management and Catering Technologies. This Foundation course is part of a learning pathway leading to a BSc (Hons) Hotel Management and Catering Technologies. It is run in a blended mode over two semesters with 6 modules per semester. The first two cohorts consist mainly of international students.

Employability Skills Courses

Undergraduate and postgraduate learners at OU are given the opportunity to enhance their readiness for the job market through short 'Employability Skills' courses. Each OU learner is allowed to enrol for two to three of these courses free of cost. More than 2,000 learners are currently enrolled on Employability Skills courses at OU.

Tailor-Made Courses

OU offers short tailor-made courses that meet specific needs of employees to enhance their skills at work. OU designs and delivers such short programmes for its stakeholders whether from the private or public sector.

Courses for Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms

These short tailor-made courses are generally offered on a part-time basis over a duration of one year and designed to meet the specific needs of Public Officers in accordance with *PRB Report* recommendations.

For 2022-2023, OU in collaboration with Civil Service College, offered the following programmes for public service officers:

- (i) Advanced Course in Effective Office Management and Supervision (OMA) Cohort 8
- (ii) Advanced Course in Effective Office Management and Supervision (OMA) Cohort 9
- (iii) Advanced Secretarial Course Cohort 6
- (iv) Advanced Secretarial Course Cohort 7

Course for the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology

Certificate in School Management for the Assistant School Superintendent programme

This short course was designed to meet the specific needs of a specific cadre of school administrators, namely the Assistant School Superintendents. Like the other short courses, it is a part-time and in-service course that runs over one year.

During the period under review, OU enrolled the second cohort of students on the programme.

Course for the Service Diocésain de l'Éducation Catholique (SeDEC)

Certificate in School Management Cohort 1

This course has been adapted from the existing course for Assistant School Superintendents to the needs of SeDEC administrative officers (School Clerks, Assistant School Superintendents and College Clerks).

Courses for the Mauritius Meteorological Services

Diploma in Telecommunication Engineering for the Meteorological Telecommunication Technicians Cohort 1

This Programme has been customised for officers of the Mauritius Meteorological Services, including Senior Meteorological Technicians (SMTs) and Principal Meteorological Technicians (PMTs). The aim of the programme is to enhance the skills and abilities required by the Mauritius Meteorological Services.

Diploma in Meteorology for the Meteorological Technician Cohort 3

This Diploma course is specifically designed for Meteorological Technicians who are already in service and for Trainee Meteorological Technicians who have been recently recruited.

Registration Statistics



OU aims at bringing higher education to the doorstep of all its learners.

The number of new learners registered for the period under review is as specified in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Number of Registered Learners in 2022/23

ADMISSION OF LEARNERS	
Intake	Number Registered
July 2022	1,269
January 2023	1,452
Total	2,721

Exemptions

OU grants students exemptions in modules of their programmes based on established criteria and procedures. Students who follow the proper procedure and fulfil the required criteria may be exempted for up to 50% of the total number of modules in their programme.

The number of exemptions processed and granted for the period July 2022 to June 2023 are provided in **Table 3** below.

Table 3

INTAKES	NO. OF MODULES APPLIED FOR EXEMPTION	NO. OF MODULES EXEMPTED
July 2022	51	35
January 2023	31	27
Total		62

Enrolment

Tables 4 and **5** show enrolment trends per level for the period under review.

Table 4: Student Enrolment per Programmes in 2022/23

SN	Programme Name	Intake	Level	No. of Modules	No. of Tutorials	No. of Active Learners
1	Foundation Programme	Jan 23	Certificate	18	72	197
		Jul 22	Certificate	18	74	173
2	Foundation in Hotel Management and Catering Technologies - Cohort 1	Jul 22	Certificate	12	60	7
	Foundation in Hotel Management and Catering Technologies - Cohort 2	Jan 23	Certificate	6	30	23
3	Advanced Secretarial Course Cohort 6	Jan 22	Short Course	5	16	26
	Advanced Secretarial Course Cohort 7	Jul 23	Short Course	5	10	27
4	Diploma in Telecommunication Engineering for the Meteorological Telecommunication Technicians Cohort 1	Jan 21	Diploma	14	29	17
	Diploma in Telecommunication Engineering for the Meteorological Telecommunication Technicians Cohort 1	Jan 21	Diploma	14	29	17

SN	Programme Name	Intake	Level	No. of Modules	No. of Tutorials	No. of Active Learners
5	Advanced Course in Effective Office Management and Supervision Cohort 8	Jul 22	Certificate	18	74	173
	Advanced Course in Effective Office Management and Supervision Cohort 9	Jul 22	Short Course	8	21	53
6	Certificate in School Management for the Assistant School Superintendent - Cohort 2	Jan 22	Short Course	8	16	42
7	Employability Skills Courses	Jul 22	Short Course	14	20	728
	Employability Skills Courses	Jan 23	Short Course	14	20	1,291
Total No. of Learners						2,679

SUPPORT TO OTHER STUDENTS

Student Support Programme

The Student Support Programme (SSP) is an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology and is driven by the Open University of Mauritius (OU) in collaboration with the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI).

The SSP website (www.ssp.moe.mu.org) has been developed with the assistance of the Government of India through the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

Through SSP, secondary level students are provided with relevant learning support through video lessons created as per the school curriculum. Access to all the contents of the SSP platform is free.

After having covered the contents of Grades 7 to 9 in about twenty subjects, OU has now started the production of video lessons for Grades 10 and 11 in four subjects. For the financial year 2022-2023, the number of videos produced for Grades 7 to 9 is 35 and 65 for Grades 10 and 11.

SSP VIDEO LESSONS PRODUCED FOR THE PERIOD JULY 2022 TO JUNE 2023

Table 6

Grades	Subject	No. of Videos Recorded
10 & 11	Mathematics	32
10 & 11	English	15
10 & 11	French	11
10 & 11	Arabic Language	7
7, 8 & 9	Science, Arabic Language, French Literature, French Language, Health & Physical Education	35
	Total	100

Assessment Activities

The objective of the Examinations Unit is to ensure a fair, reliable and valid assessment for all learners.

Activities

The Exams Unit has carried out assessments for more than 17,000 candidates including those from Rodrigues and International Learners for the period of July 2022 to June 2023.

The number of programmes and modules examined has continuously increased over the years and the number of final awards processed for OU learners from July 2022 to June 2023 is 1,359.

Besides conducting examinations for OU, the Exams Unit is providing assistance for the conduct of examinations for Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd learners under an MOU dated 09 August 2022. It has conducted examinations for more than 3,000 learners of the PML from October 2022 to June 2023.

Table 7: Examinations conducted from July 2022 to June 2023

Examinations	No. of Programmes Examined	No. of Modules Examined	No. of Learners
OU June/July Exam 2022 & Nov/Dec 2022 (Postgraduate)	35	239	2,534
OU June/July Exam 2022 & Nov/Dec 2022 (Undergraduate)	70	1,480	13,100
Foundation July & Dec 2022 exam session	1	36	596
MPH	1	6	27
PHD	1	-	10
Polytechnics 2022/2023	15	144	3,018
CILT 2022/2023	1	2	23
FSI	1	10	141

Examinations	No. of Programmes Examined	No. of Modules Examined	No. of Learners
Employability Skills	1	16	201
OMA+ CS+ Diploma in Telecommunication and Engineering	3	22	272
Other Short courses	2	13	132

Convocation

OU organised two convocation ceremonies for:

- 1,706 students who had their final awards in the years 2021 and 2022 during the Covid-19 pandemic, from 7 to 16 December 2022 (Excluding 12 and 13 December 2022); and
- 646 students who had their final awards from August 2022 to December 2022, on 28th and 29th April 2023.

Certificates Issued

For the year 2022-2023, a total of **2,222** certificates were issued as per Tables 8 & 9 below:

Table 8

Number of Graduates Per Level	(01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023)
Level	Number of Graduates
Doctor of Philosophy	14
Master's	445
Postgraduate Diploma	19
Postgraduate Certificate	7
Undergraduate	871
Diploma	118
Certificates	50
Total Number of Graduates	1,524

Table 9

Courses	No. of Participants
Advanced Course in Effective Office Management	42
Certificate in School Management (SEDEC)	46
Certificate in School Management for the Assistant School Superintendent	41
Employability Skills	276
Foundation Courses	157
How to Use Blackboard as Instructor	88
Office Management Skills	48
Total Number of Participants for Non-award Courses	698

REACHING AND SUPPORTING STUDENTS



“Students have expressed their satisfaction with the learning environment, support received from staff, the flexibility of the programmes and the technology used in teaching and learning.

The caring approach, availability and quick response to queries, range of learning and assessment approaches were praised by students.”

Source: *Report of the First Cycle Quality Audit of the Open University of Mauritius*, TEC, 2018

The University has a strong learners' support system with the following elements:

- Pre-enrolment counselling and information services;
- Induction materials including fact sheets;
- Induction session with information and advice given on preparation for distance learning including study skills;
- One Programme Manager for learners of each programme. Support provided through an e-learning platform, emails, and face-to-face sessions. The Programme Manager ensures the smooth running of programme/s under his/her responsibility;
- A virtual learning platform where learning resources are provided;
- E-library with over 800,000 titles accessible from anywhere and at any time;
- Provision of recorded videos of tutorial sessions;
- Handbooks/guides on dissertations and assignments;
- Guide on Distance Education;
- Weekly planners of face-to-face sessions to respond to academic needs of learners;
- Additional sessions to respond to specific academic difficulties of learners;
- Plan for submission of assignments;
- One tutor for each of the modules in which a learner is enrolled;
- Assignments with feedback given to learners;
- Special support organised for special needs/bed-ridden learners as well as for inmates enrolled in our programmes;
- Dissertation/project supervisor;
- Anti-plagiarism software facilities (Turnitin);
- Organisation of Skype sessions/Virtual classrooms;
- Social media facilities for learners;
- Well-equipped classrooms as well as space for peer group meetings outside teaching hours;
- Use of MOOCs for programme delivery;

- Counselling sheets for exams;
- Placement for learners in some programmes;
- E-payment facilities;
- Personal email account for each learner; and
- Constant communication with learners via individual and bulk email as well as SMS.

Both human and technological inputs are integrated within the system. The main support services provided on the OU e-learning platform include:

- Access to resources and assignments;
- Dissemination of information, general notices, guides;
- Use of anti-plagiarism software;
- Past exam papers; and
- Discussion forum.

Our learners are independent but not isolated.

OU STUDY CENTRES

The headquarters of OU is located at Réduit comprising two Wings, the North and South Wings. The North Wing building comprises a Lecture Theatre and a few classrooms used for tutorials. OU's main study centre is at Forest-Side, Curepipe. It also hires other buildings as study centres in Curepipe as and when required. The first study centre in Rodrigues has been operational since 2019. Other study centres are planned in Africa.

OU NEW CAMPUS AT CÔTE D'OR

In line with its Strategic Plan, the Open University of Mauritius intends to develop a new campus on a portion of land of 10 Arpents situated at Côte d'Or in two phases which will comprise the following:

- a) Phase 1 - Construction of an Academic Block of an approximate floor area of 15,000 sqm including services, amenities and external works; and
- b) Phase 2 - Construction of an Administrative Block of approximate floor area of 8,000 sqm including services, amenities and external works.

Help Desk Services

Services Offered

- A quality customer service to stakeholders, including learners.
- A platform where stakeholders/learners can interact with our officers to voice out their complaints, queries, needs and their problems which can be addressed in an effective way.
- Assistance to the stakeholders/learners regarding their queries in line with the policies of the University.

Activities

For the period under review, a total of 217 queries and/or complaints were addressed and attended to as indicated in **Table 10** below.

Table 10: Statistics on Queries/Complaints attended to during the period July 2022 to June 2023

Months	No. of Queries and/or Complaints attended to
22 July	22
22 August	20
22 September	13
22 October	26
22 November	20
22 December	7
23 January	15
23 February	17
23 March	52
23 April	10
23 May	5
23 June	10
Total	217

Counselling Services

Admission/Academic Student Support



Effective pre-enrolment counselling and information services are provided to prospective learners throughout their application process and module registration. Requests for exemption from new learners are also given due consideration.

Officers in the Academic, Administrative and Technical cadres are involved in ongoing counselling activities in order to respond to the needs of the learners from the induction sessions up to successful completion of their course.

Learner Support Services

Learner Support services constitute an important component of the teaching/learning system of ODL at OU.

Services Offered by the Admissions Unit

Learner Support starts before the learner is registered at OU. The Admissions team ensures effective:

- processing of applications received from learners;
- processing of requests for exemptions from applicants;
- provision of learner ID Cards to registered learners;
- provision of bus pass to full-time registered learners only;
- provision of visa facilities for foreign full-time learners only.

The learners are accompanied as from day one till the end of their studies at OU by a professional support system at different levels at OU.

Services Offered by AAD

The following pedagogic and customised learner support constitutes a pivotal component of the teaching and learning system for ODL:

- ◇ Academic and administrative support, including guidance on the regulations, re-registration amongst others;
- ◇ Individualised counselling on various aspects of the learner's studies;
- ◇ Educational advice and guidance and facilitating peer groups;
- ◇ Pastoral care; and
- ◇ Specific support based on specificities of programmes.

OU strives to provide technical support and facilities so that learners have a conducive learning environment and receive the best learning experience.

Induction Sessions

Two major Induction Sessions for the following intakes were organised virtually:

- (i) August 2022 intake on 30 July 2022
- (ii) January 2023 intake on 25 February 2023

Event Organised

Poetry Reading Session held on 15 May 2023 in the Lecture Theatre, Open University of Mauritius organised by President's Fund for Creative Writing under the aegis of the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage.

Student Affairs Support

The Student Affairs Unit (SAU) manages the OULearn Blackboard (LMS) and the OU Website. During the year 2022/2023, continuous online assistance and support were provided to all the registered learners through the OULearn Blackboard platform where learners can have 24/7 access to their learning materials.

Services Offered by the Student Affairs Unit

The Student Affairs Unit

- Communicates with existing learners through mailing systems, phones, SMS, OULearn Blackboard platform and Website.
- Posts Notices for learners, prospective learners as well as other stakeholders on the OU Website.
- Manages the website and updates it with relevant information as and when required.
- Provides institution email accounts to new learners and tutors
- Provides credentials to all new users for OULearn Blackboard
- Ensures that learners, tutors and lecturers have access to their respective modules on the OULearn Blackboard
- Attends to queries within a maximum time of 48 hours as from the time the query is logged.

Activities

During the year 2022/2023, the Unit:

- Created modules per programmes for semesters August 2022 and February 2023.
- Enrolled the learners, tutors, Programme Managers in their respective modules/programmes.
- Sent login credentials to all new learners and tutors for the OULearn Blackboard.
- Enrolled the existing learners in their registered modules by semester.
- Gave access to modules and deferred modules for learners who had to resit or had deferred programmes.

- Issued important communiqué and information such as cancellation of class, rescheduling of face-to-face sessions, planners and guidelines for writing assignments and dissertations to learners.
- Gave assistance to learners to upload learning materials like manuals, recorded videos, audios through the virtual learning platform.
- Provided access to the e-library and online databases (Emerald, Ebsco, Proquest, Directory of Open Access Journals, online dictionaries, online encyclopedias).
- Converted best dissertations into flip books to allow consultation by learners.
- Provided access to Past Exam Papers for each semester.
- Uploaded timetable for exams.
- Published results for each semester.
- Provided SPSS software for quantitative research to all learners.

Management of OULearn Blackboard

OULearn Blackboard is the Learning Management System (LMS) that OU uses to provide a quality education to all its learners. The LMS OULearn Blackboard also provides continuous online support throughout the learning journey of learners and is accessible on a 24/7 basis.

The diagram below shows all the resources that OULearn Blackboard used to enhance the learning experience of the learners:



Figure 1

Table 11 gives statistical details on each activity of the Unit.

Table 11: Statistics for the period 01 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Core Activities	July 22 to December 22	January 23 to June 23	July 22 to June 23 Grand Total
Access to New Users in all modules registered	1,145	1,450	2,595
Access to existing users in all modules (Learners and Tutors)	9,426	10,313	19,739
Programmes/Modules Created for New and Existing Intakes	921	881	1,802
Uploaded/Imported materials	1,153	1,328	2,481
Uploaded Videos	40	23	63
Queries	3,485	2,796	6,281
Turnitin/Safe-Assign	30	42	72
Bulk Mails (Sent to Learners)	269,759	267,298	537,057
Email Account	1,145	1,450	2,595
SMS	8,862	31,250	40,112
Website	29	31	60

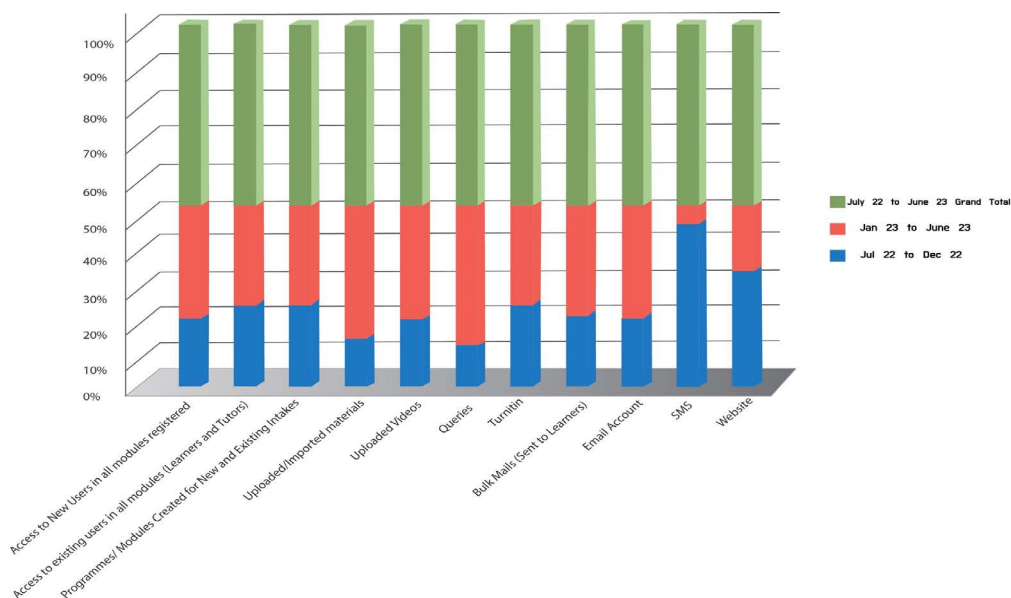


Figure 2

Communication with Learners

The Unit also communicated and interacted with learners via Bulk email, SMS and phones.

Bulk Email

The following information was disseminated to learners via bulk email:

- Planners
- Timetable for exams
- Invitation letters for inductions
- Registration letter for the new semester
- Registration link to participate in events
- Information on the schedules of planners
- Information on vacancies from various agencies

Credentials

- Email account of new users
- Individual credentials for new users to access OULearn Blackboard were sent using mail merge (YAMM).

SMS Platform

The SMS platform is mostly used to send urgent communiqués. For the period July 2022 to June 2023, 40,112 SMS were sent to make learners aware of the cancellation of classes due to bad weather and other urgent information on examinations among others.

Queries/Customer Care

The Unit attended to queries, troubleshooted problems and found the root causes of problems to identify appropriate solutions within the specified timeframes.

Queries related to access to modules for registered learners, for those having resit modules as well as for deferred programmes, changes in learners' personal details, and requests for access to learning materials were attended to. Support was also given to learners to download materials and to find information about assignments, dissertations, thesis, planners, timetables and results.

Complaints from learners were handled with care and some were directed to the department concerned for quick resolution.

All queries and complaints were resolved so as to exceed our users' expectations and to deliver great customer service within 48 hours during the year under review.

Management of Website

The aim of the OU website is to provide helpful information to all its stakeholders. It is also enhanced regularly with updated posters and images/photos reflecting the activities of the University.

The website is updated with relevant information, such as:

- Latest News & Communiqué on organisational activities like Enrolment, Workshops, Induction Day, Convocation Ceremonies, Notice of Vacancy
- All events organised by OU
- Important information on OU Programmes/Courses
- Procurement exercises and related information
- The academic calendar
- Information on ongoing and new programmes and fees.

Achievements

New Email Account for Learners

The Unit also created a new email account for all new learners. The email accounts enable learners to communicate with Open University. The institutional email account is also used to create an account on Blackboard. Each learner received an email account Outlook Office 365 with all its features.

Email Account for Part-time Tutors

New email accounts were created for tutors and used to enrol the tutors on Blackboard as the platform requests an institutional email account. Tutors used the same account for training on the e-library.

Capacity Building

Presentation on OULearn Blackboard for the Inductions

Presentations on “How to access the learning materials on Blackboard” were made to all new learners during the induction sessions.

Workshop for Tutors

Training on how to use OULearn Blackboard as an instructor was organised to make all the part-time tutors familiar with the new system. 90 part-time tutors were trained for the semester August 2022 and February 2023.

Marketing and Public Relations

Services Offered

- Marketing and Public Relations services
- Advertising and Communication campaigns through both traditional and digital media during enrolment.
- Handling of queries from prospective learners, the public, the press and other stakeholders.
- Conceiving communication content and implementing nationwide information activities through multiple media (Print, Radio, TV, Press, Social Media).
- Event management and responsible for the overall site set-up, public relations, shields,

photography, sales of souvenirs, graduate interviews and press relations at the Convocation Ceremony.

- Distribution of corporate items to learners during inductions.

Activities

Advertising and Communication

The Unit handles queries from prospective learners, public, press and other stakeholders on a daily basis. Press write-ups are conceived, approved and sent for publication. Also, a number of branded items are distributed to new learners during Inductions, made available for sale to the public and sold to graduates during Convocation Ceremonies.

The MPR Unit employs both broadcast media and digital marketing to disseminate adverts during enrolment campaigns. The quantity of adverts aimed at informing prospective learners was disseminated through various media, as displayed in **Table 12**.

Table 12: Number of adverts and communication materials disseminated per medium

Medium	Number of Adverts/Items Disseminated
Television	21
Radio	47
Newspapers/magazines	22
Posters/flyers/brochure on courses	29,600

The following methods were also used to conduct marketing and communication activities:

- Emails: around 5,000 individual queries were attended to during the year;
- WhatsApp – around 2,000 queries were handled during the year; and
- Dissemination of branded items – 4,188 items were distributed to learners, guests, staff proceeding on retirement, VIP visitors, etc.

Social Media

The MPR Unit makes use of three social media platforms, namely Facebook, Instagram and YouTube to disseminate information, advertise and reach specific targets. By the end of June 2023, OU's official social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram) registered above 28,000 followers, while its relatively new YouTube channel garnered more than 7,000 subscribers - and these platforms continue to expand daily.

The YouTube channel of the University contains a number of videos, such as those of past events, speeches of chief guests, alumni testimonies, promotional information and webinars. OU's YouTube channel is also a repository of several instructional/educational materials such as:

- Videos provided by OU Library to impart skills for using research databases; and
- Videos about the Mauritian Constitution presented by Emeritus Professor Torul, produced by the AVP Unit in collaboration with MPR.

OU's social media platforms have shown their versatility in reaching various segments of the population and interacting instantly with them, such as during live inductions.

Events

Induction Sessions

To prepare newly enrolled learners for their academic journey at OU, in collaboration with other Units, the MPR Unit organised two major Induction sessions for undergraduate and postgraduate learners of the July/August 2022 and January/February 2023 intakes.

Both inductions were held online via OU's YouTube channel. The e-inductions involved a series of presentations, and demos about OU e-Library, OULearn Blackboard, etc., while all queries were answered in real time.

The innovative use of the YouTube channel to conduct live inductions is now well-established at OU and this formula has proved its effectiveness. These live events were successfully organised with the close collaboration of AAD, SAU, AVP and ETS Units.

Other inductions which utilised the same approach were sessions held for new learners of the Foundation Programmes of the July/August 2022 and January/February 2023 intakes.

The MPR Unit also supported the organisation of a special induction conducted for international learners enrolled in Foundation in Hotel Management and Catering Technologies on 24 February 2023.

Fairs

MPR participated in the Salon de L'Éducation from 02 to 04 September 2022 at La Galerie du Génie, Port Louis. The event welcomed prospective students, parents and representatives from the education sector who had queries or required guidance about higher education options. It was an opportunity to showcase OU's programmes and explain our uniqueness. The Fair also helped to start off communication activities in view of the January/February 2023 intake.

Also, MPR led OU's participation in the University and Career Expo 2023 from 10 to 12 February 2023 at SVICC, Pailles. This event represents a major marketing opportunity for OU due to the large number of school leavers in quest of higher education avenues and who interact with OU staff for advice during the fair. The event also marked the opening of OU's enrolment campaign for its July/August 2023 intake.

Signature of MoU events

The MPR Unit organised three agreement signature events with external partners as follows:

1. Emotional Well-Being Institute (Geneva) – 14 July 2022;
2. University of Portsmouth – 19 September 2022; and
3. Concentrix – 21 March 2023.

Convocation and Award Ceremonies

MPR Unit played a key role in the organisation of the following functions:

1. Convocation Ceremony from 07 December to 16 December 2022.

This ceremony exceptionally ran over 8 days, welcoming graduates who were not able to participate in an official ceremony as a result of sanitary restrictions previously. The December 2022 Convocation required major logistical and staff mobilisation, resulting in the successful management of a total of more than 5,000 guests (graduates, family members and VIPs) during the 8 days. Among the Chief Guests, OU welcomed:

- (i) Mrs Jacqueline Sauzier, CSK, General Secretary, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce;
- (ii) His Excellency Dr Salma Al Farisi, Secretary General, IORA;
- (iii) Mr Philippe Espitalier Noël, CEO, Rogers Group; &
- (iv) Mr Vidia Mooneegan, Managing Director, Ceridian, Mauritius, amongst others.

Mr Raj B. Dansinghani, OSK (Chevalier des Palmes Académiques), Sr Advisor on Education Matters, delegated by the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research, was the Chief Guest for the opening of the Convocation Ceremony.

2. Convocation Ceremony from 27 to 28 April 2023.

During each session, OU welcomed around 1,000 guests including graduates, parents and VIPs. In addition, during this Convocation Ceremony, OU officially recognised the achievements of two of its doctoral learners who have performed exceptionally in international competitions, as follows:

- (i) Mrs Dharyan Minien – who won the first prize for “Ma thèse en 180 secondes” (MT180), organised by L’Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie and The French Embassy in Mauritius. She represented the Open University of Mauritius and Mauritius at the grand finale of MT180 in Montréal, Canada in October 2022.
- (ii) Mrs Harshini Devi Moonisamy-Ellapah – who won the second prize and the social media prize at the Young Academic Award, hosted by The World Alliance of International Financial Centers (WAIFC) in Morocco in October 2022.

3. Award Ceremony for the Certificate in School Management, in collaboration with OU’s Open School, held on 13 April 2023.

Other Events

The MPR Unit also provided major inputs to the organisation of the following events:

- Celebration of OU’s 10th anniversary and launch of OU’s Souvenir Magazine on 14 July 2022.
- Social Sciences International Research Conference (SSIRC) with North West University, led by Research Office, from 19-21 October 2022.

- Interactive virtual event with FSI in OU studio to promote the International Graduate Diploma in Financial Crime Compliance on 17 March 2023.
- Présentation de livres sur l'Interculturel par Dr Issa Asgarally, CSK, jointly organised by MPR and Research Office, 24 April 2023.
- Poetry Reading Session, jointly organised by MPR and AAD, in collaboration with the President's Fund for Creative Writing under the aegis of the Ministry of Arts and Cultural Heritage – 15 May 2023 in OU's Lecture Theatre - The Honourable Minister of Arts and Cultural Heritage was the Chief Guest.

Notable Visitors at OU

MPR also collaborated to welcome a series of distinguished delegations/guests at the University, namely:

- Prof. Anunaya Chaubey from the Anand National University, Ahmedabad, India, August 2022;
- Delegation from University of Portsmouth, Sept. 2022;
- Delegation from University of Seychelles, Nov 2022;
- Delegation from Nelson Mandela University, November 2022;
- Delegation from Open University, UK, November 2022;
- Delegation from Centennial College of Ontario, Canada, November 2022;
- Mr C Armand of AUF - Afrique Australe et Océan Indien, February 2023; and
- Her Excellency, Dr Maria do Rosario Braganca, Minister of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of Angola, May 2023.

Production of Marketing Materials, Design and Photography

All marketing materials and artworks used for advertising and all video and radio scripts required for marketing activities are conceived and written in-house by the MPR Unit. More than 80 artworks, 12 videos and 4 radio spots for marketing purposes were designed/edited/produced in-house in collaboration with the AVP Unit. Around 130 video interviews of Alumni have been recorded and used for advocacy, providing inspiration to others.

The MPR Unit also takes care of the photography of all events at OU. More than 30 photography coverages both in-house and outdoors were carried out. All photos are archived online and kept for future use.

Library Facilities

Services Offered

- Provision of books (including e-books) and other learning resources to support the teaching, learning and research activities of the library users
- Reference service – assisting users in finding information and in research
- Selective dissemination of information (SDI) – subject list of e-resources is sent to targeted learners enrolled in specific programmes.

- Continuously growing e-library collections - through paid subscriptions and open access educational resources.
- User Education – Online training sessions in collaboration with e-resource providers are organised for learners and library/e-library orientation is conducted regularly by the Head, Library Services.
- Law Corner – a law collection and dedicated library area equipped with ICT and other library facilities are provided to academics and learners enrolled in law programmes.
- Photocopy services – An assisted photocopy service is offered to learners wishing to photocopy assignments and library materials.
- Virtual Inductions - All new learners are given an overview of the services and resources provided by the Library Services followed by a demonstration on how to access, search and download online databases.
- Dissemination of information through:
 - a) Emails, phones, online and face-to-face training sessions
 - b) Blackboard Platform: Using the OU e-library demonstration videos, Fact Sheet (containing registration instructions, links, usernames and passwords), list of dissertations, Forms to request library services, webinars, workshops and training videos organised by e-resource providers in collaboration with OU.
 - c) Video tutorials made by the HLS on how to access each database are posted on the YouTube channel of OU.
- Facilitate access to the UoM E-Library System by uploading OU learners' details for access to the UoM's e-dissertations collection. 3,090 learners and staff have been registered on the system for the period 01 Jul 2022 to 30 June 2023.
- Facilitate access to the Thomson Reuters law collection by uploading OU learners' details for access to their Westlaw Classic database.
- Provision of learning materials such as the DDC and Cataloguing books to learners of BA (Hons) Library and Information Science programme for workshops on Classification and Cataloguing.
- Organising the digitisation process of the programmes in the Library Audio/Video Archives.
- Provide access to physical libraries equipped with library materials, reading areas and photocopy facilities at both Curepipe and Réduit campuses.
- OU e-dissertations – 62 e-dissertations from 12 programmes are available for consultation on the Blackboard LMS.

Activities

E-Library

The E-library, with over 500,000 e-books and 45,000 e-journal titles, is accessible from anywhere and at any time. It is accessible 24/7 via the Internet. Learners do not need to be on campus to have access to e-library facilities. The E-library consists of quality resources from well-known e-resource providers through paid subscriptions and Open Educational resources to meet the Library users' needs.

Paid Subscriptions

1. Elsevier – ScienceDirect Evidence-Based Selection e-books collection and SD Freedom Collection of e-journals
2. Emerald - Management & Engineering e-books and e-journals collections.
3. EBSCOhost - Academic Search Complete, Business Source Complete, eBook Academic Collection, eBook Business Collection, eBook Collection, eBook Open Access (OA) Collection, Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts with Full Text, Regional Business News
4. ProQuest - Literature Online, ProQuest Arts and Humanities collections
5. Thomson Reuters - Westlaw Classic legal database
6. Research4Life - peer-reviewed content in health, agriculture, environment, and other life, physical and social sciences.

Open Educational Resources

1. JSTOR – peer-reviewed scholarly journals, respected literary journals, academic monographs, research reports, and primary sources from libraries' special collections and archives.
2. Taylor & Francis Open Access e-books and e-journals' collections
3. Directory of Open Access Journals and Books (DOAJ) & (DOAB) – peer-reviewed open-access e-journals and e-books collections.
4. National Digital Library of India - Contains 73,356,939 resources, including 46,000,000 books
5. Open Access Theses and Dissertations (OATD)
6. Global Trends in Management, IT and Governance in an e-World Book series (E-MIG International)
7. Academia
8. Hal-Francophonie
9. Scientific & Academic Publications - SAPUB
10. Global Trends in Management, IT and Governance in an e-World book series (E-Mig International)
11. ScienceDirect, EBSCO and Emerald open access collections
12. University of Mauritius E-Library System – e-dissertations
13. Legislations of Mauritius
14. OU e-dissertations collection

New Subscription

01 January 2023: Elsevier-Science Direct Freedom Collection of 2,324 e-journal titles.

Usage Statistics of Databases

The Library collections are primarily in digital format (approximately 500,000 e-books and 45,000 online journals) and the Library tries its best to ensure that the learners make use of the digital documents. Great effort is made to help learners to adapt to a digital library. The usage statistics in Table 13 indicate the interest of OU learners in using its online resources.

Table 13: Usage Statistics (Searches) of databases for the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Database	01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	Remarks
ScienceDirect EBS e-books	3,102	
ScienceDirect Freedom Collection - e-journals	4,759	Elsevier e-journals subscription started Jan 2023
EBSCOhost	306,708	
Emerald Insight	63,973	
JSTOR	82,053	
ProQuest	17,538	
Westlaw Classic	2,025	
Research4Life	521	
UOM e-library	3,090	
TOTAL	483,769	

Table 14: Acquisition of Books/Periodicals/Newspapers for period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Item Type	Quantity	Amount (Rs)
Text Books	43	51,788.00
E-books	1	1,935.00
Newspapers	974	29,670.00
Periodicals	141	12,690.00
TOTAL	1,159	96,083.00

Virtual Inductions for New Intake Students

The virtual inductions held on 30 July 2022 and 06 February 2023 by OU for new intake students also included a presentation of the services and resources provided by the Library Services.

Interactive Library Instruction Sessions

Eight interactive library instruction sessions were conducted by the Head, Library Services for newly appointed Lecturers, Lecturer/Senior Lecturers, Heads of Department, senior management team and part-time Lecturers on 05, 24 to 28 April 2023 and 15, 20 and 21 June 2023.

Activities Organised - Webinar and Training

The Library Services, in collaboration with e-resource providers, organised the following trainings and webinars for undergraduate and postgraduate learners, PhD and DBA learners, Part-time Lecturers, Academics, and Researchers:

Table 15: Activities Organised

Date	Organised by	Training Description
25 August 2022	EBSCOhost	EBSCO platform live online training
30 August 2022	Emerald Insight	Emerald platform live online training
28 September 2022	Elsevier (ScienceDirect)	Sub-Saharan African Research Leaders' Summit
31 January 2023	EBSCOhost	EBSCO platform live online training
03 March 2023	Elsevier (ScienceDirect)	Science Direct Platform training and Workshop for researchers
06 March 2023	EBSCOhost	EBSCO platform live online training
16 March 2023	Emerald Insight	Emerald platform live online training
04 May 2023	Elsevier (ScienceDirect)	ScienceDirect e-books and e-journals platforms live online training
09 May 2023	Thomson Reuters	Westlaw Classic guide to find content live online training
22 May 2023	Elsevier (ScienceDirect)	ScienceDirect e-books and e-journals platforms live online training
29 May 2023	Elsevier (ScienceDirect)	Workshop - Avoiding Predatory Journals
12 June 2023	Elsevier (ScienceDirect)	Workshop - More than PDFs: How ScienceDirect features can make the difference?

Elsevier Visit

Following subscription to ScienceDirect Freedom Collection of e-journals on 01 January 2023, a representative from Elsevier, Mr K Shalan, visited OU. He had a meeting with management on **27 February 2023** and conducted two face-to-face trainings and workshops for academics and research students on **03 March 2023**.

Other Library Activities

Learners' manual sales service: No. of manuals sold for the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 is **65** for the amount of **Rs 22,920**.

Digitization Project: The Audio-Visual Production (AVP) Unit and Engineering Technology Services (ETS) Unit are directly concerned with the evaluation, cleaning of tapes, and digitization process taking into consideration the historical value of the programmes. This exercise started in May 2021. As at 30 June 2023, **950 MCA Betacam tapes** and **517 MCA DVDs** having historical value have been digitised.

Student Support Programme – Broadcast Schedules: The broadcast schedules of Student Support Programmes were prepared for the half-hour slot on MBC 3 during weekdays and 2.5 hours on Saturdays, aimed at students of Grades 7, 8 and 9. A total of 767 programmes for 177 hours were aired for the period 01 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

Graphics, Publishing and Printing Services

Services Offered

- Graphic design and Desktop publishing
- Copy editing and proofreading
- Electronic scanning
- Offset printing in full colours
- Digital printing in full colours
- Finishing services include binding, laminating and stitching
- Reprographic Services namely, bulk copying and photocopy service
- Consultancy on matters pertaining to graphic design, book design and general print production
- Technical assistance and expertise to other parastatal and government organisations in the field of logo design, corporate publications, and acquisition of printing/reprographic equipment.

Activities

The list of assignments undertaken by GPP for the period July 2022 to June 2023 is reproduced in Tables 16 and 17 below:

Table 16: For Internal Clients

Nature of Work	Internal Client (Units)
A4 prints (MoU, MoA, Fact Sheet, Answer Sheet, A4 Promotional Materials, Dummy Certificate, etc.)	20,943
Booklets (Annual Reports, Log Book for Vehicles, Oath of Confidentiality, etc.)	7,955
Brochure	565
Business Card	824
Card (Invitation Card, Refreshment Voucher and Gown Voucher)	10,102
Certificate	3,528
DVD Labelling	1,323
Exam Answer Booklet	56,900
Exam Prints (MCQ Paper, Graph Paper, Stickers for Script, Stickers for Exam Paper, etc.)	10,000
Files Cover	200
Flyers	25,031
Forms (Casual Leave, Sick Leave, Vacation Leave)	3,000
Headed Paper	17,000
Laminating	88
Magazine	350

Manuals	184
Note Book	2,000
Note Pad	2,100
Poster	5,285
Signage (Door-plate, etc.)	519
Total	167,897

Table 17: For External Clients

External Client	Type of Work	Project	Quantity (Units)
University of Technology, Mauritius	Name Tag with Pouches	HAQAA2	50
	Flex Banner with Stand		1
	Table Name		4
	Certificate of Attendance		46
UNESCO	Flyer	Née Pour Apprendre	100
	Flyer	Learn-Leveraging Education	200
Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology	Telephone Book	Triennale	50
Mauritius Qualifications Authority	Booklet	Annual Report 2020-2021	20
HEC	Flyers	Free Education Scheme	400
Quality Assurance Authority	Booklet	QAA-Board Meeting	7
	Folders	Strategic Roadmap QAA	150
	Brochure		150
	Sheet- Programme		110
	Sheets- Brief		110

Information and Communication Technology Services

Services Offered

- Oversee all IT requirements at OU in terms of Management Information Systems.
- Effective, efficient and collaborative IT services, solutions and strategies in a timely manner to Learners, Part-Time Lecturers, Academics and Non-Academic staff.
- Innovative/Creative solutions and reliable information to staff and learners.
- Writing of technical specifications for the purchase of IT equipment and Software.
- Management of the process for License renewal for software.

Activities

- Updating the registration and re-registration system to enable additional mode of online payment
- Acquisition of paid Zoom licenses for online sessions with more than 100 learners.
- Implementation of MyT Money and Juice to allow online payments.
- Update learner registration system for enrolment.
- Provide support to tutors on Part-Time Tutor online application
- Coordinate issues regarding HR and Accounting Systems between staff and suppliers
- Update and testing HR System
- Create tickets and follow-up on Behind the Blackboard LMS
- Create users in Blackboard Collaborate
- Create roles and permission at Institutional and systems levels in Blackboard LMS
- Update and testing of Accounting System
- Design test cases for Vacancy System
- Continuous Support for Classroom, Vacancy System and Contract Management System
- Renewal of the following:
 1. Symantec Antivirus (200 Licences)
 2. Part-time tutor system
 3. Domains Open.ac.mu, oumauriti.us, Grammarly
 4. DYNDNS
 5. HR and Accounting system
 6. Cloud hosting for SSP
 7. Zoom License (35)
- Assist at the Graduation Ceremonies

Major Achievements

- Continuous update of the Registration/Re-Registration systems by adding the following new features:
 - (i) New reports for the Academic Affairs Division
 - (ii) Integration of Myt BillPay
 - (iii) Automation of report and data import structure for new Accounting Software.
- A ticketing system for the IT Unit has been developed.
- An Intranet Portal has been implemented for OU staff.
- Continuous update of the Online Vacancy System by adding the following new features:
 - (i) Amendments in reports
 - (ii) Fixed bugs.
- Continuous update in the Contract Management System by adding the following features:
 - (i) New reports
 - (ii) Optimisation of Database.

Software Acquisitions

- The HR and Accounting systems have been implemented and are in use.
- Blackboard LMS has been implemented and is already in use.
- Atlas. Ti for Student Affairs Unit

The following software agreements have been renewed:

- (i) Antivirus (200 licenses)
- (ii) Grammarly software (Yearly)
- (iii) SKBL attendance system
- (iv) Cloud hosting server
- (v) Domain Names
- (vi) Imppp Wi-Fi service at OUCC
- (vii) ILP Rental
- (viii) Part-Time Tutor System
- (ix) HR and Accounting System
- (x) Zoom Licence

Hardware and Server Acquisitions

- Two new servers for Accounting and HRM software.
- A new cloud server for the hosting of the new SSP System.
- All our online services/applications have already been moved to cloud server.

- The previous cloud server has recently been upgraded.
- The Server for Accounting has been successfully collocated to Rogers Capital Technology Services Ltd (RCTS) for remote access.
- One more server rack has been purchased to house our network equipment and server more securely. The old switches have been replaced by new managed switches.
- New UPS and NAS have been installed in the server room to cater for power cut and back-up purposes.
- Symantec Antivirus Manager has been moved to cloud.

Ongoing Projects

- **IT Equipment & Software**

- ◇ Provision of Technical support in elaborating technical specifications for the purchase of IT equipment and Software.
- ◇ Management of the process of License renewal for software.

- **Provision of Tablets for Students**

IT Unit assists in the purchase of tablets for learners by providing the specifications, uploading respective modules as per programme on individual tablets and provision of technical support to learners regarding faulty tablets as and when required.

The tender process for the purchase of 15,000 tablets is ongoing.

- **Cloud Server**

We are moving stepwise towards cloud services, which are more efficient, and stable with high availability. It is secured and includes disaster recovery plan and has secured back-up.

Recently one more cloud server has been purchased for the SSP project. We have also upgraded our current cloud server.

Statistics

Statistics are compiled based on number of applicants through in-house system. The following are based on approximation due to late enrolment or application.

1. **Registration System** (intake July 2022 to Jan 2023)

Total number of Applicants	= 2,717	Out of which 35% of the applicants were Male and 65% were Female.
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2. **Re-Registration System**

Total number of Applicants	= 6,925	Out of which 31% of the applicants were Male and 69% were Female.
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3. Part-Time Tutor System

Total number of Applicants = 1,575

4. E-Ticket System for Behind the Blackboard

Tickets on Behind the Blackboard = 10

Audio-Video Production Services

Services Offered

Significant investment is being made in the Audio-Video Production Unit (AVPU) with latest state-of-the-art technologies which enable AVPU to produce higher-quality video content and provide better services to its customers, internal and external.

Table 18: AVP Unit`s Achievements 2022/2023

Output	Description
Production of a wide range of video content: OU's face-to-face lectures, online courses, and virtual events,	Helped OU learners, especially overseas students to have access to the recorded face-to-face lectures
Produced high-quality video lessons for the SSP	Supported and complemented the learning of students at school levels
Provided human resource for the live broadcasting of the National Assembly proceedings	Live broadcast was ensured by OU officer
Recorded and edited video addresses of Ministers and other VVIPs	Provided recording facilities for online addresses both for local and overseas use.
Conducted audio and video workshops for students in the BA Communication, Media & Journalism programme	Helped to coach them with the skills they need to succeed in their chosen field
Digitised analogue video programs	Contributed largely to preserving the important historical productions of the ex-MCA for archiving
Produced instructional videos	Helped OU learners with skills through Blackboard
Produced community outreach videos	Helped to raise awareness of important issues in the community through the OU YouTube channel
Livestreamed events	Facilitated live streaming of several induction sessions to reach thousands of OU learners (at their own pace and place). Supported the parent ministry for live streaming of an international conference held in Mauritius (ADEA Conference)

Convocation Ceremonies	Recorded all sessions of Convocation Ceremonies and made them available on DVDs for the graduates, preserving their memories.
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Activities

Table 19: Activities Carried out in 2022/2023

SN	Activities	No. of items
1.	Student Support Programs (SSP)	
	Video lessons produced for Grades 10 and 11	65
2.	Student Support Programs (SSP)	
	Video lessons produced for Grades 7, 8 & 9	35
3.	OU Lectures, Face-to-Face Sessions Videos	570
4.	Events, Virtual Inductions, Clips, TV Spots, Video Coverage of Events, Webinars, Convocation Ceremonies, etc.	69
5.	Human resource provided for live broadcasting of the proceedings of the National Assembly (NA)	23 sittings
6.	Services provided to the MOE for Conferences (ADEA Triennale)	3 days- all sessions
7.	Video recordings of Ministers` address and VVIPs for National & International conferences/events/webinars	9
8.	BA Communication, Media & Journalism – Video Workshops	15
9.	BA Communication, Media & Journalism – Audio Workshops	13
10.	Digitization of analogue video programs of the ex-MCA	511
11.	Audio spots/clips for different campaigns	4
12.	Dubbing of DVDs and VCDs	1,200
13.	Instructional Videos	15
14.	Community Outreach videos	10
15.	Livestreaming	5
16.	Others (Interviews, additional videos)	135

Engineering and Technology Services

Services Offered

- Engineering and Technological services to staff and learners
- Ensuring proper functioning and operation of equipment and systems
- Building Maintenance Services
- Supervision of installation and commissioning of equipment

- Preparation/formulation of specifications and technical evaluation of projects
- Development and maintenance of the technical infrastructure of the University and its study centres to support the delivery of digital systems and services.
- Adequate ICT equipment for staff and learners
- Technical support for online teaching through Zoom, PowerPoint, and Skype
- Specific services within the organisation in the field of ICT-related technologies.

Activities

- Ensuring that all classrooms and virtual classrooms are in good condition for conducting face-to-face tutorials and that necessary equipment, such as projectors, are available to Tutors.
- Provision of Internet and Wi-Fi facilities to staff, tutors, visitors and learners.
- Provision of technical support for online teaching through Zoom, PowerPoint, WhatsApp, Skype and online induction.
- Writing of technical specifications.
- Advise on technical projects.
- Provide technical assistance in events like induction and workshops for the recording and provide live viewing facilities to our learners.
- Maintain all these AV Equipment and systems.

Acquisition

- Procurement of Equipment for recording and live streaming. Events like induction and workshops are recorded and viewed live by our students. It is an interactive system where students can view and interact.
- New modern equipment procured for the AVP Unit.

Achievements

- The OU buildings at Réduit and Forest Side were painted and all building infrastructures and services well maintained.
- The parent Ministry has mandated OU to host the Learning Center for the e-VBAB Network Project. This project is a joint Venture of the Government of India and Mauritius as per the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between both parties. The Government of India has donated ICT equipment with state-of-the-art technology which have been installed in a Computer Lab and other dedicated spaces to support online learning at OU.
- The first graduation ceremony for e-VBAB was held in the Lecture Theatre. Eminent personalities were present for that event.

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

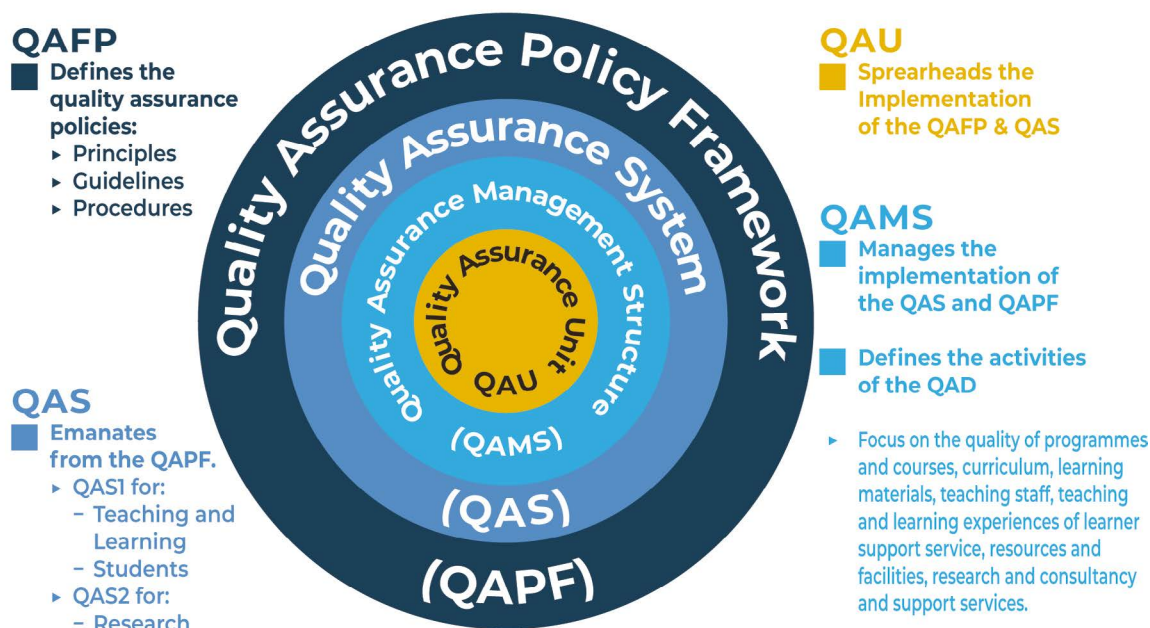


“The panel noted a commitment and awareness of the growing importance of quality assurance”

Source: Report of the First Cycle Quality Audit of the Open University of Mauritius, TEC, 2018

The Quality Assurance Policy Framework of OU is reproduced hereunder:

Diagram 2: The Quality Assurance Policy Framework of OU



QUALITY ASSURANCE HANDBOOK

As part of its Quality Assurance Framework, OU has established an Academic Quality Assurance Handbook.

The handbook provides a comprehensive guide to applying policies, procedures and systems. All Units and Divisions involved in the academic processes are instrumental in developing and reviewing the handbook. The handbook has been compiled to provide a clear and comprehensive description of OU's quality assurance system.

The Board has approved the Quality Assurance Handbook for dissemination and implementation.

Study Centre Quality Assurance Audit

In view of ensuring that OU provides quality education, the Quality Assurance Team was entrusted with the responsibility to carry out class observations at OU Campus Curepipe to identify OU's delivery and learning Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

Internal Quality Assurance Steering Committee (IQASC)

Since coming into operation, OU's top priority has been to provide its learners with quality higher education.

Among one of the instances as per the Quality Framework to address all quality matters at the managerial level is the setting up of an Internal Quality Assurance Steering Committee. In April 2023, the OU Board approved the setting up of the IQASC to facilitate the maintenance of the Quality Assurance System.

ISO 9001:2015

1st Surveillance Audit

The University being ISO 9001:2015-certified, undergoes yearly surveillance audit by the Mauritius Standards Bureau (MSB) to ensure that the quality system in place meets the ISO Standards.

The first surveillance audit was held on 24 November 2022. No major non-conformity was raised. But, five minor non-conformities and seven Opportunities for Improvement were obtained from the MSB.

Internal Audits

Following a pre-established schedule, internal quality reviews are conducted on a regular basis for all Units and Divisions of OU.

The aim of these internal reviews is to assess if the quality standards are being adhered to and improvement that could be initiated to meet quality objectives set. The internal reviews are based on the requirements of the QA Standards and Guidelines for quality audits as well as the ISO 9001:2015 Standards.

Table 20: Internal Audits Undertaken

Month	Divisions/Units Audited
July 2022	Information and Communication Technology Unit
August 2022	Admissions Office
	Marketing and Public Relations Unit
	Stores Unit
	Student Affairs Unit
	Certification Unit
	Finance Division
September 2022	Examinations Unit
	Library Services
	Partnership and Collaboration Unit
	Procurement Unit
	Safety and Health Unit
	General Administration
	Human Resources Unit

October 2022	Audio-Video Production Unit
	Engineering and Technology Services Unit
	Open School Division
	Graphics, Publishing and Printing Unit
February 2023	Internal Audit Unit
	Information and Communication Technology Unit
March 2023	Research Office
April 2023	Help Desk Unit
	Finance Division
May 2023	Student Affairs Unit
	Open School Division
	Marketing and Public Relations Unit
June 2023	Library Services
	Academic Affairs Division
	Certification Unit

SURVEYS

According to the OU Strategic Plan 2017-2025, one of the objectives for Quality Assurance is to conduct relevant surveys on a regular basis to collect and analyse data. Findings of surveys are communicated at Management Review Meetings and act as a basis for continuous improvement of OU services.

Learner Surveys

In view of improving the quality of service provided by OU, two learner surveys were conducted in year 2022, one in July for Semester 1 and the second one in November 2022 for Semester 2. The outcome of the July 2022 learner survey was tabled at the ISO Management Review Meeting (MRM) of November 2022. For the November 2022 learner survey, a report was submitted to the Director-General in March 2023.

CAPACITY BUILDING IN QA

Harmonisation, Accreditation and Quality Assurance in African Higher Education (HAQAA2) Conference 8 to 12 August 2022

The HAQAA2 Conference was held in August 2022 at Hennessy Park Hotel, Ébène. Key officers of OU, directly concerned with QA matters, were exposed to the new African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ASG-QA). The OU team comprised the Director Academic Affairs Division, the Deputy Registrar, the Team Leader QA, the Quality Assurance Officers, the Administrative Officer QA and the Administrative Officer Management. This workshop was also an opportunity for OU participants to share their experience and challenges of QA with their counterparts from other public and private universities present during this 5-day workshop.

The HAQAA has been established to support the development of a harmonised Quality Assurance (QA) and Accreditation System. The African Union (AU) called for the harmonization and strengthening of the quality of higher education in Africa to make it both locally relevant and globally competitive.

The HAQAA2 project was conducted online in November 2021 and the Team Leader Quality Assurance was nominated to follow the training programme.

Following this training, a bidding exercise was floated for participants to disseminate the project at the national level. The Open University of Mauritius, University of Mauritius, University of Technology, Mauritius came together to bid for this exercise by proposing the organisation of a workshop on "Capacity-Building for a shared understanding of IQA Systems Based on the ASG-QA in Mauritian HEIs". The HAQAA2 Conference was held from 08 to 12 August 2022 with Professor K Naidoo as host.

After the Conference, further workshops/trainings were held:

- **Strategic Leadership and Transformation Change Workshop**

The Director AAD, the Registrar, the Team Leader Quality Assurance Division and one Quality Assurance Officer attended the workshop on strategic leadership and transformational change hosted by experts in the field from Portsmouth University, UK on 21 September 2022 at Sofitel Hotel, Flic-en-Flac.

- **Internal Quality Assurance in the SADC**

The Team Leader for Quality Assurance Division attended a webinar session presented by HAQAA2 team in October 2022 on the state of play of Internal Quality Assurance in the SADC region.

- **IQA-4-Africa from Pan-African Policy to Practice**

The Team Leader for Quality Assurance Division, followed three online seminars on IQA-4-Africa from Pan-African Policy to Practice hosted by HAQAA2 in October 2022, November 2022 and December 2022 respectively.

- **One-day Workshop organised in-house**

The Quality Assurance Division in collaboration with QAA had organised a one-day workshop on 06 April 2023 targeted for staff at management level with the aim to offer useful insights into meeting the needs, challenges, risks and management of the internal quality assurance at OU. The workshop was conducted by Professor K Naidoo.

The QAA has planned to offer such workshops to different categories of OU staff, namely the QA Staff, the Academics and the Support Staff.

- **Strategic Roadmap Workshop**

The Strategic Roadmap Workshop organised by QAA scheduled in June 2023 at the Caudan Art Centre was attended by the Team Leader Quality Assurance Division.

ATTENDANCE AT WORKSHOPS ORGANISED BY MSB

- **World Standards Day 2022**

On the occasion of World Standards Day held on 14 October 2022, the Team Leader Quality Assurance Division attended a seminar hosted by MSB.

- **Quality Management System – Internal Auditor Training Program**

In view of building capacity for the Unit, one Quality Assurance Officer attended the Internal Auditor Training Programme organised by the MSB on 07 and 08 December 2022.

- **Quality Management System – Implementer Course**

The Implementer Course organised by the MSB from 28 February to 02 March 2023 was also attended by one Quality Assurance Officer.

TRAINING ABROAD

SADC-QA 2023/2024 Training (Train IQA)

The application of one Quality Assurance Officer was successfully selected by the Selection Committee composed of international experts for the SADC-QA 2023/2024 Training.

The SADC-QA aims at promoting regional quality assurance in SADC member countries. It is coordinated and conducted by the University of Potsdam (Centre for Quality Development - ZfQ) within the frame of the DIES programme, which is jointly coordinated by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK). The Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA) is the regional partner organisation of the SADC-QA Project.

TrainIQA is part of the DIES programme (Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies) which aims at strengthening higher education management structures in developing countries. DIES is supported by funds of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The SADC-QA TrainIQA run from March 2023 to March 2024 comprises three workshops.

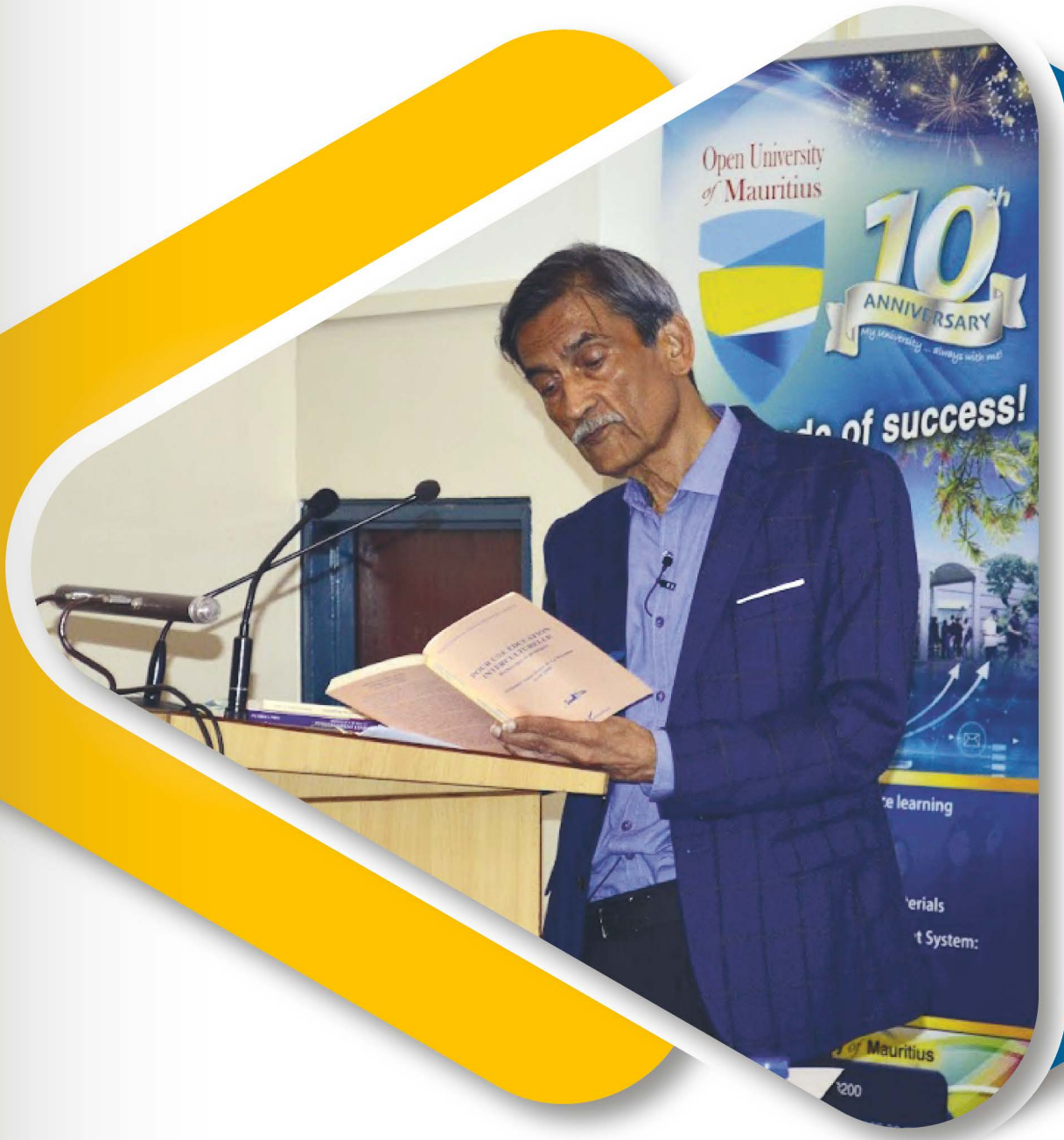
Workshop 1 organised in Johannesburg, South Africa from 20 to 25 March 2023 was attended by one Quality Assurance Officer. The Team Leader QA attended the opening Conference held on 24 and 25 March 2023.

Workshops 2 and 3 will take place in August 2023 and March 2024 respectively.

QUERIES AND COMPLAINTS

Since OU wishes to pursue higher levels of achievement and quality, continuous improvement is a vital component. It is important to test at regular intervals the OU customers' satisfaction. Queries and complaints are collected and a Query & Complaints Analysis for each Unit/Division is carried out by the Quality Assurance Unit and submitted to management for decision-making purposes.

PARTNERSHIP, COLLABORATION AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS



The successful and rapid growth of OU has been possible with the support of international partners. With the collaboration of the Commonwealth of Learning, OU offered the CEMBA and CEMPA programmes since its coming into operation and this enabled OU to boost its student enrolment, securing a local market for these programmes.

In addition, together with Imperial College London (ranked among the top five universities in the world) OU has conducted several Continuous Professional Development programmes for medical doctors and specialists. The team from Imperial College London has helped us in setting up a School of Public Health that will play a pivotal role in Mauritius and in the region with the unprecedented Pandemic which has affected people's health all over the world. OU is thus offering the Master of Public Health in collaboration with Imperial College London.

Such successful collaborative projects have already resulted in enhanced visibility of OU, at both national and international levels and other universities and even non-academic organisations are showing interest in collaborating with OU.

OU is a member of several prestigious international networks of universities:

- Association of Commonwealth Universities
- International Council for Open and Distance Education
- African Council for Distance Education
- Distance Education Association of Southern Africa
- Association of African Universities
- International Association of Universities

OU works with the following partners:

- Imperial College, London (UK)
- Stockholm University (Sweden)
- University of California, San Diego (USA)
- Advance HE (UK)
- Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (UK)
- Commonwealth of Learning (Canada)
- University of South Africa
- University of KwaZulu Natal (South Africa)
- University Canada West
- Botswana Open University
- Botswana College of Distance Education and Open Learning
- Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (UK)
- Open University of Tanzania
- Open University of Sri Lanka
- Charles Sturt University (Australia)
- African Virtual University (AVU)
- John Wiley & Sons (USA)

- Wawasan Open University (Malaysia)
- Indira Gandhi National Open University (India)
- Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA)
- Chandigarh University (India)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING/AGREEMENT (MOU/MOA) WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

The following agreements/MoUs were signed during the period under review:

1. Memorandum of Agreement between the Open University of Mauritius (OU) and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) – signed on 26 July 2022
2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Open University of Mauritius (OU) and Emotional Well-Being Institute (EWBI) – signed on 28 July 2022
3. Agreement between Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Mauritius (CILTM) and Open University of Mauritius (OU) – signed on 05 August 2022
4. Letter of Agreement between the Open University of Mauritius (OU) and Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd (PML) – signed on 09 August 2022
5. Learning Partner Accreditation Agreement signed between CILT (UK) and Open University of Mauritius (OU) – signed on 20 September 2022
6. Memorandum of Understanding between the Open University of Mauritius (OU) and Chandigarh University, India (CU) – signed on 16 October 2022
7. Memorandum of Understanding between the Open University of Mauritius (OU) and Nelson Mandela University (NMU) – signed on 02 November 2022
8. Accord-Cadre de Coopération entre L'Open University of Mauritius (OU) et La Commission de L'Océan Indien (COI) – signed on 25 November 2022
9. Licensing Agreement between the Open University of Mauritius (OU) and the Botswana Open University (BOU) – signed on 07 December 2022
10. Memorandum of Understanding between the Open University of Mauritius (OU) and ABE Global – signed on 19 December 2022
11. Memorandum of Understanding between the Open University of Mauritius (OU) and Open University Worldwide Ltd – signed on 19 January 2023
12. Memorandum of Agreement between Concentrix CVG (Mauritius) Ltd and the Open University of Mauritius (OU) – signed on 21 March 2023
13. Contract Agreement between University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (UKZN) through its College of Law and Management Studies and Open University of Mauritius (OU) – signed on 30 May 2023

14. Partnership Agreement between the University of Mauritius (UoM) and Open University of Mauritius (OU) – signed on 31 May 2023
15. Licence Agreement between the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and Open University of Mauritius (OU) – signed on 13 June 2023

RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY



'Effective Research, Consultancy and Innovation' is one of OU's strategic objectives. Thus, OU aims at providing a stimulating and congenial environment to promote research, consultancy and innovation across interdisciplinary projects. OU also promotes institution-wide services for seeking and managing research funding and grants from different institutions including government, research bodies, foundations, and industries to foster and encourage a research culture and consultancy works.

At OU, the Research Office ensures research collaboration is developed with external bodies, including national, international, and multilateral agencies, NGOs and other universities, to promote the use of research output to make informed choices in programme and course development processes. The Office thus acts as a national and international centre of excellence in key research areas such as online learning, Technology in education, Public Health and Interculturalism, amongst others. It is a catalyst to encourage creative research, innovative scholarship, and a spirit of inquiry leading to the generation of new knowledge within the University for a growing society.

RESEARCH ETHICS

Ethical Clearance

The Research Ethics Committee addressed the ethical issues of 12 learners.

Research Committee

The Research committees met to consider and approve research proposals from academics, to enable them to attend the different conferences and to present their papers.

Knowledge Diffusion

International Conference Attendance

Table 21: List of Academics who attended an International Conference from July 2022 to June 2023

Name of Participant	Date of Conference Attended	Name of Conference	Venue of Conference	Title of Paper Presented
1. Mr Tomal Chadeea	14-16 September 2022	10th Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF10)	Conference in Calgary, TELUS Convention Centre Canada	If Augmented Reality is really effective as a teaching tool, why is it not used in Distance Education?
2. Mrs Rubeena Doomun	14-16 September 2022	10th Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF10)	Conference in Calgary, TELUS Convention Centre Canada	1: Gamification: An innovative pedagogy to onboard students for online learning success
				2: Pioneering MOOC in the Mauritian Context: Lessons learnt and Observations: the case of the Open University of Mauritius

3. Mrs Meera Gungea	28-30 September 2022	5th International Open & Distance Learning Conference	Conference in Turkey	How Covid-19 taught teachers how to teach online – the story of teacher resilience amidst coronavirus pandemic – a case study at the Open University of Mauritius
4. Dr P Appavoo	28-30 September 2022	5th International Open & Distance Learning Conference	Conference in Turkey	Challenges of Carrying out Research by ODL Learners
5. Dr Louis Jinot Belle	24-26 November 2022	The 5th International Conference on Modern Research in Education, Teaching and Learning	Conference in Roehampton University, London	The influence of instructional leadership of primary school heads on teachers' commitment in Mauritius
6. Mrs Vandana Gooria	01-02 December 2022	International Conference on Teaching, Assessment and Learning in the Digital Age	Conference in Coastlands, Umhlanga, Durban, South Africa	Why so silent during online classes? And Nobody is talking?
7. Mr Yudhansingh Boodhun	April 27-30, 2023	IConSoS 2023: International Conference on Social Science Studies, Marmaris/ Turkey	Online	Value Relevance and Integrated Reporting sustainability approach: Evidence from Listed non-financial Companies in Australia
8. Mrs Suniti Nundoo Ghoorah	03-05 May 2023	4th Literature and Cultural Studies Conference	Ege University, Izmir, Turkey	Diving into mermaid iconography in Hans Christian Andersen's <i>Little Mermaid</i> and its Disney re-creations: from subversion of female voice and sexuality to celebration of otherness?

Paper Presentation at Conferences

Organisation of Conference

The North-West University, South Africa and OU jointly organised the Social Science International Conference (SSIRC) on 19 and 20 October 2022. Delegates from South Africa and Mauritius attended the conference.

SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Publications

A total of six research articles were published, two in peer-reviewed journals and four in Conference proceedings by OU Academics.

Presentation of Books

The Presentation of Books was organised on 24 April 2023 at Open University and Dr Asgarally presented ten books on Interculturality to promote the forthcoming Colloquium scheduled in March 2024.

RESEARCH GRANT SCHEMES

The Research Office has started implementing a number of research schemes to encourage OU's researchers/academics to delve into research-based activities.

Research Seminar

The Research Seminars organised were as listed in Table 22.

Table 22: Research Seminar

SN	14 February 2023 From 10 00 to 11 30	28 February 2023 From 10 00 to 11 30
1.	Mr Mrinal Sohoraye: 'An incursion into practical transference of theories and concepts in Humanities using Transfer of Learning (TOL) to real-life situations in a post-pandemic situation.'	Mrs Rubeena Doomun: Pioneering MOOC in the Mauritian Context: Lessons learnt and observations: the case of the Open University of Mauritius
2.	Dr Perianen Appavoo: Challenges of Carrying out Research by ODL Learners	Mrs Rubeena Doomun: Gamification: An innovative pedagogy to onboard students for online learning success
3.	Dr Louis Jinot Belle: The influence of instructional leadership of primary school heads on teachers' commitment in Mauritius	Mr Tomal Chadeea: If Augmented Reality is really effective as a teaching tool, why is it not used in Distance Education?
4.	Mrs Meera Gungea: How Covid-19 taught teachers how to teach online – the story of teacher resilience amidst coronavirus pandemic – a case study at the Open University of Mauritius	Mrs Vandannah Gooria: Why so silent during online classes? And Nobody is talking?

OUR PEOPLE



With the promulgation of the Open University of Mauritius (OU) Act, the Mauritius College of the Air (MCA) Act was repealed and transitional provisions were made in the Act to transfer staff on permanent and pensionable establishment of the ex-MCA to that of OU on terms and conditions not less favourable than those of their previous employment.

One of the priorities of OU is to reinforce its staffing population to have adequate human resources for its increasing activities.

STAFF POPULATION OF OU

The overall administration of OU rests with the Director-General who is the chief executive and academic officer of the University. He is supported, in the daily discharge of his duties, by the Director of Academic Affairs, the Registrar, the Deputy Registrar, the Financial Controller, the Team Leader of Quality Assurance and Capacity Building, as well as other Heads of Units and a complement of officers in different grades including academics and non-academics comprising administrative and technical cadres.

As at 30 June 2023, the staff population of OU was 242 as detailed below:

- ◇ 30 Academic Cadre (including 12 contracts),
- ◇ 56 Technical Cadre,
- ◇ 156 Administrative Cadre (including 2 part-time).

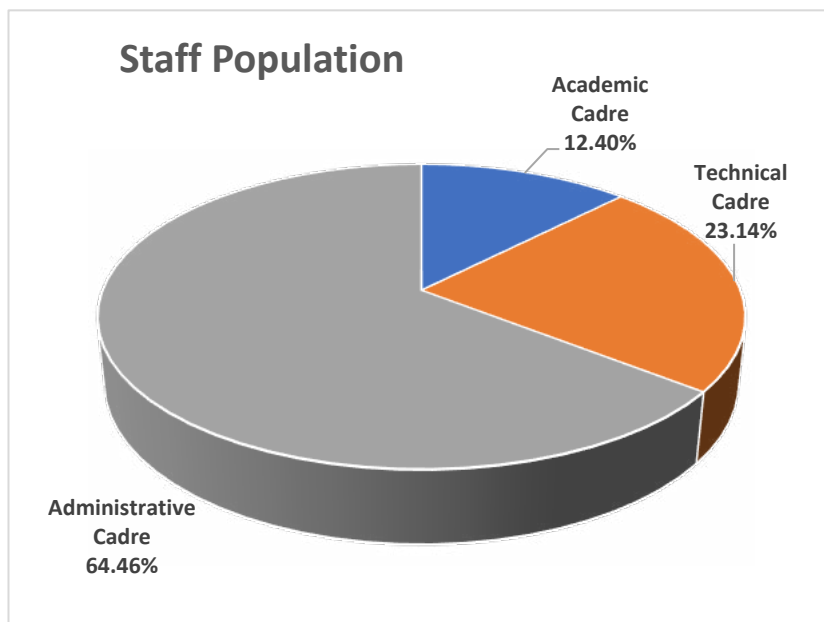


Figure 3: Staff Distribution in 2022/23

EXTERNAL APPOINTMENT

The following vacant posts were filled by 51 external candidates:

- One Head, Library Services;
- One Quality Assurance Officer;

- Twelve Lecturers;
- Two Assistant Procurement and Supply Officers;
- Twenty-one Clerk/Word Processing Operators;
- Two Driver/Office Attendants;
- Seven Office Attendants; and
- Five General Workers.

INTERNAL APPOINTMENT/PROMOTION

The following vacant posts were filled by 8 internal candidates:

- Two Senior Audio Video Executives;
- One Systems Engineer;
- One Systems Analyst/Senior Systems Analyst;
- One Examinations Officer;
- Two Assistant Procurement and Supply Officers; and
- One Driver/Office Attendant.

RETIREMENT

Ten officers retired from the service during the period under review.

- One Director (Open School);
- One Senior Audio Video Executive;
- One Lecturer;
- One Academic Media Coordinator;
- One Senior Procurement and Supply Officer;
- One Higher Executive Officer;
- One Clerk/Word Processing Operator;
- One Senior Handy Worker/Tradesman (Skilled); and
- Two Senior Head/Office Attendants.

END OF CONTRACT

The contracts of the Director (Academic Affairs) and the Head, Library Services ended during the period under review.

RESIGNATION

One Lecturer (on contract), thirteen Clerk/Word Processing Operators and one Office Attendant resigned from the service during the period under review.

PERMANENT TRANSFER

One Clerk/Word Processing Operator has been permanently transferred to the Civil Service Family Protection Scheme Board as from 02 May 2023.

ENLISTMENT ON TEMPORARY BASIS

During the period under review, OU also resorted to enlistment on a temporary basis to assist its several divisions for:

- Part-time Tutorial Support to our Learners for:

Academic Affairs Programmes

OU enlisted the services of part-time tutors to provide tutorial support to our learners as follows:

For the semester July 2022	:	345 part-time tutors
For the semester January 2023	:	338 part-time tutors.

For Open School Programmes

OU enlisted the services of 109 part-time tutors.

- Research Assistants
- Trainees in line with Government scheme
- Placement of Students from Tertiary Education Institutions under Work Based Learning programmes.

CONSULTANCY SERVICES

- OU has hired a Project Management Consultant namely Ong-Seng Goburdhun Partners Ltd for the management of the construction of OU new campus at Côte d'Or.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Attendance at Conference Locally/Abroad

- The Director AAD and one Lecturer attended the Big Data & Responsible AI Conference held on 11 October 2022 at Caudan Arts Centre, Port Louis.

- The Financial Controller attended the 21st World Conference of Accountants 2022 in Mumbai, India from 18 to 21 November 2022.

CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Heads of Divisions and Units, Management team members, Administrative/QA cadre and Academics attended a training on QAA/HEC Standards and Guidelines for Quality Audits on 25 August 2022 in-house, in the Lecture Theatre, Open University of Mauritius.
- The Internal Auditor attended a Training session on ISQM Q, ISQM 2 and ISA 220 Practical Implementation held on 25 August 2022 at The Westin Turtle Bay & Resort Spa Mauritius, Balaclava.
- The Procurement and Supply Officer and One Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer attended a Training on e-Procurement System (e-PS) for Bid Preparation and Review held on 21, 22 and 23 September 2022 at Training Room, Procurement Policy Office, Room 932, Emmanuel Anquetil Building, Port-Louis.
- One Systems Analyst/Senior Systems Analyst, One Assistant Systems Analyst and One Office Management Assistant attended a Training on Upgrade Public Procurement Portal held on 07 April 2023 at PPO Training Room 932, Level 9, Emmanuel Anquetil Building, Port Louis.
- The Accountant attended a Workshop on Consolidation, IFRS Updates and others held on 25 and 26 April 2023 at Hennessy Hotel, Ébène.
- The Team Leader for QA and the Senior Academic Media Coordinator (Research Office) attended a QAA Roadmap 2024 – 2028 held at Hennessy Hotel, Ébène on 07 June 2023.

ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING/WORKSHOP/SEMINAR

Academic Staff

- One Lecturer attended a Workshop on Data-Driven Early Childhood Education Systems held on 17 and 18 October 2022 at Balaclava.
- One Senior Lecturer and one Lecturer attended an Online seminar on Higher Education Management for developing countries from 09 to 29 November 2022.
- The Senior Academic Media Coordinator (Research Office) attended an Online seminar on African Think Tanks and National Development from 16 to 29 May 2023.
- The Senior Academic Media Coordinator (Open School) attended an Online Training - AUF CEF (Centre d'Employabilité Francophone) training of trainers held from September 2022 to June 2023.

Non-Academic Staff

Administrative Staff

- Ten Clerk/WPOs attended a Training Programme in Registry Procedures held on 23 September 2022 organised by the Civil Service College Mauritius, Port Louis.
- Eleven Clerk/WPOs, one Financial Operations Officer, two Assistant Financial Operations Officers, One Confidential Secretary attended a Training Programme on Advanced Microsoft Excel held on 03 and 05 October 2022 (1st Batch) and (2nd Batch) on 16 and 20 June 2023 by Civil Service College Mauritius, Port Louis.

Technical Staff

- One Senior Technician attended an Online Training Course on “Building an effective Cyber Incident Response Team” held on 16, 17 and 18 November 2022 from 13:00 to 16:00.
- One Technician (Engineering Technology Services) attended a Seminar on Occupational Safety and Health held on 25th and 26th January 2023 at the Occupational Safety and Health Training and Information Centre, Level 2, Victoria House, Port Louis.
- One Systems Analyst/Senior Systems Analyst, the Systems Engineer, One Technical Executive (Engineering Technology Services) attended a Workshop for IT Professionals for setting up the National OER Repository held on 13, 14 and 15 June 2023 at The Core Facilities of UoM.

ADMINISTRATION OF WELFARE ACTIVITIES

OU is concerned about the well-being of its staff and one of its strategic goals is to promote welfare. Necessary provision is made in the Annual Budget for the promotion of welfare and work-life balance at OU.

The objectives for OU to administer welfare activities are to organise recreational activities for its staff, to maintain effective communication with the OU Staff Welfare Association and to set up and operate schemes for the benefit of its staff and their families.

Welfare Activities during the period under review:

- Transport facilities to staff working after office hours.
- Free lunch/snacks to staff on specific occasions.
- Retirement Gift.
- Partly sponsored Group Medical Insurance Scheme to staff with option to include their dependents.
- Grant facilities to Staff Welfare Association to organise its activities.
- Provision of training in First Aid Course conducted by the Fellowship First Aiders to support staff.

ANALYSIS OF THE FINANCIAL
POSITION OF OU
AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

ANNUAL REPORT
—— 2022 - 2023 ——

A. BACKGROUND

Since its coming into operation on 12 July 2012, OU had to devise a clear strategy to steer its operations. It developed sound financial strategies and policies so as to maintain a constant growth and development. Based on the latest financial results as at 30 June 2023, it is clear that the overall financial position of OU has improved since the financial year 2018/2019. With the introduction of the Free Tertiary Education Scheme (FTES) in January 2019, OU has registered a significant increase in enrolments for its courses and its student population as at 30 June 2023 stood at 13,587 learners.

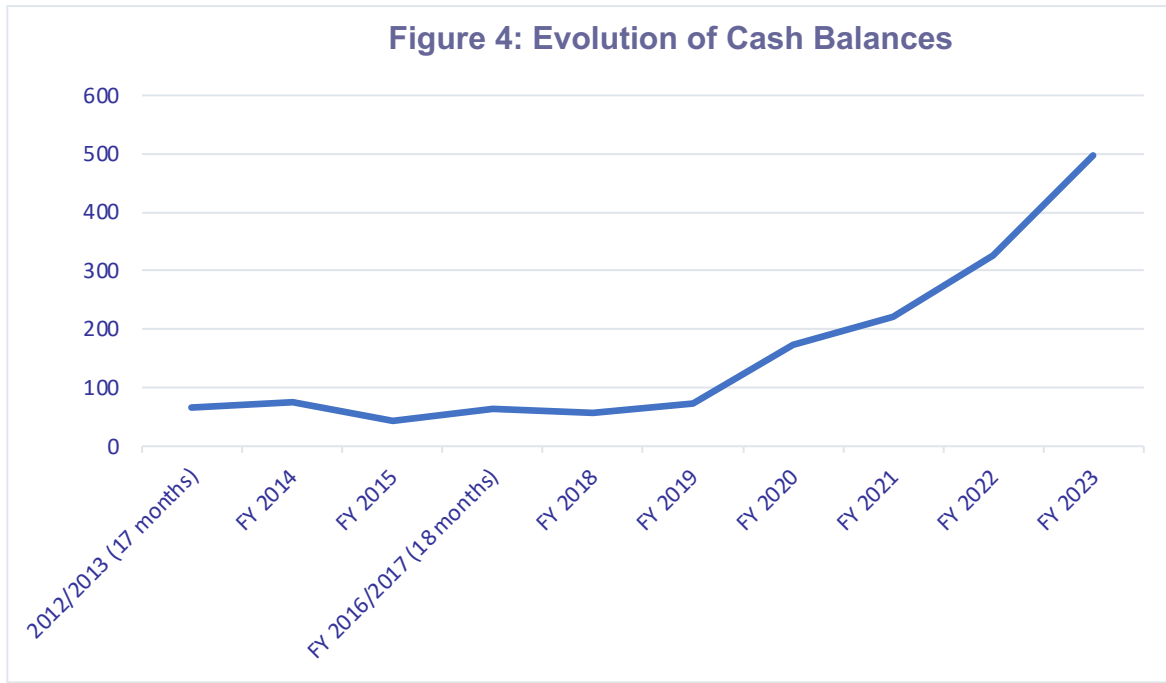
B. FINANCIAL POSITION

The key financial results for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 are summarized in **Table 23** below:

Financial Year	Government Grant	Operating Income	Operating Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Cash and Bank Balance
	Rs M	Rs M	Rs M	Rs M	Rs M
2012/2013 (17 months)	151.1	55.1	184.50	21.70	64.50
FY 2014	88.4	115.7	175.90	28.20	74.60
FY 2015	39.4	108.6	177.60	(29.60)	43.20
FY 2016/2017 (18 months)	77.4	204.2	292.20	(10.60)	62.80
FY 2017/2018	42.3	149.9	201.30	(9.10)	56.20
FY 2018/2019 (unaudited)	39.7	184.2	214.00	9.90	72.9
FY 2020	29.4	278.1	221.1	86.4	172.2
FY 2021	16.3	377.1	229.8	163.6	220.6
FY 2022	21.3	445.3	316.9	128.4	326.2
FY 2023	15.2	391.3	304.7	101.8	497.2

C. CASH POSITION

Following the increase in enrolment of learners during the financial year 2022/2023, the cash balance of OU has attained **Rs 497M**. To note, the cash balance excludes an amount of Rs 78.9M not yet transferred from HEC under the FTES as at 30 June 2023. The increase in cash balance is directly related to the increase in revenue from course fees. OU has generated an amount of Rs 387M as course fees during FY 2022/23. The evolution of cash and bank balance is shown in **Figure 4** below.



D. OPERATING RESULTS

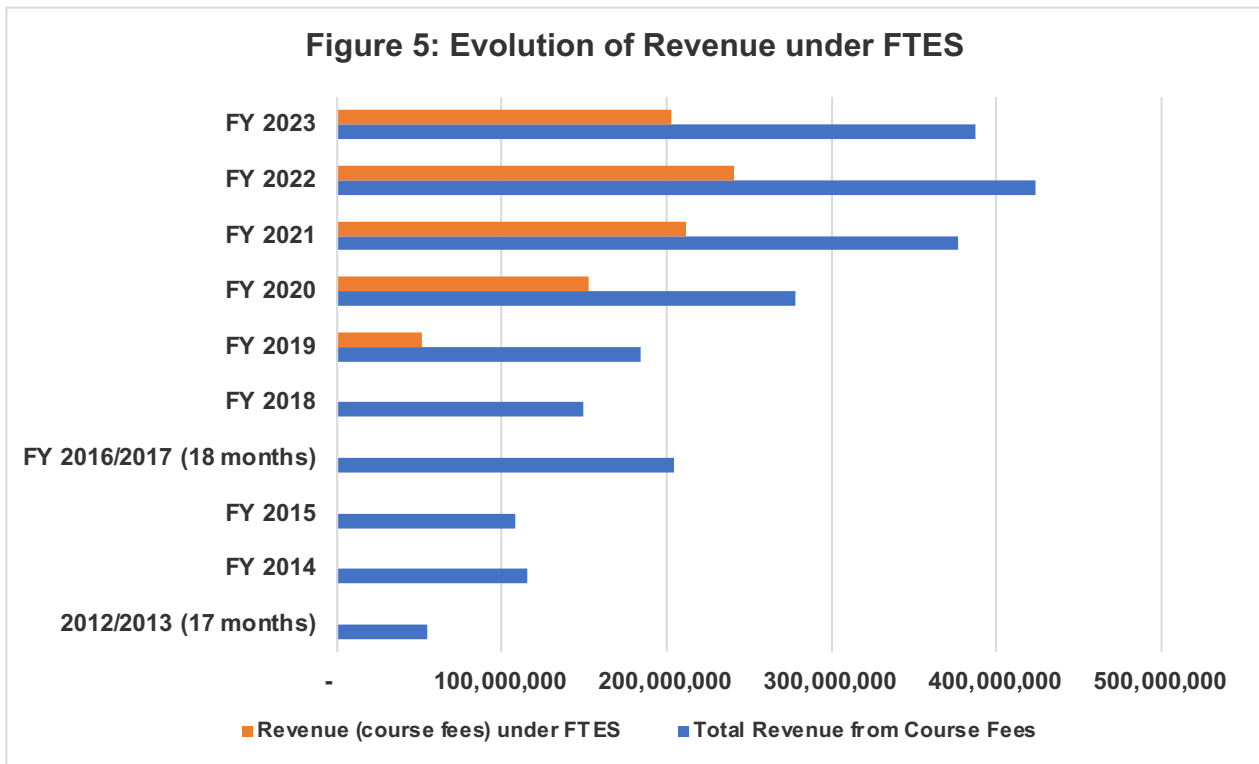
As per the unaudited Accounts of OU for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2023, OU has registered a **surplus of Rs101.8M**.

The main reasons behind the surplus are summarized as follows:

Operating Revenue

- OU has generated Revenue of Rs406M during the financial year, out of which Rs387M is directly related to course fees. Since the introduction of FTES in 2019, OU is generating a significant part of its revenue from course fees under FTES. Course fees generated under the Free Tertiary Education Scheme amounted to Rs203M, representing 50% of total course fees.
- OU is currently generating 96% of its operating revenue from fees from learners as well as from other activities relating to printing, conduct of examinations for other TEI's and audio-video productions.

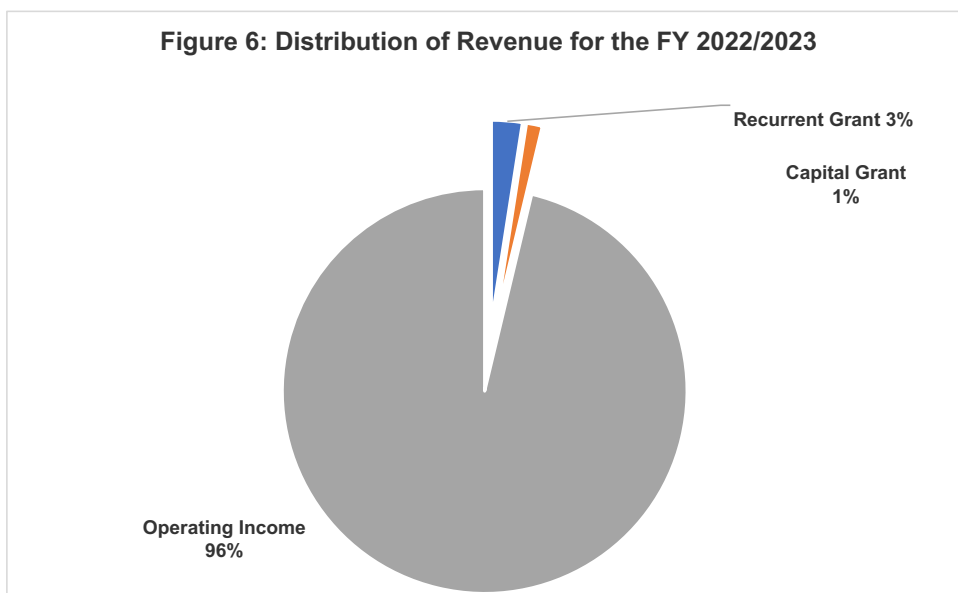
The evolution of operating revenue and revenue under FTES is depicted in Figure 5 below.



Though Government contribution towards the OU's Budget decreased over the years, OU managed to sustain its budget by generating revenue mainly from course fees from learners and by adopting rigorous measures towards expenditure management. When OU started enrolling students in 2013, the percentage of Recurrent Grant over Total Operating Income was around 72%. As per the latest figures, the percentage of Government Grant over Total Operating Income is around 4%.

It should be also noted that in 2013, OU was generating around 27% of its operating income from fees from learners. With the exponential growth in learners over the last ten years, OU is currently generating nearly 96% of its total Operating Income from fees from learners and other activities. To note, OU is "self-financing" its operation since 2019.

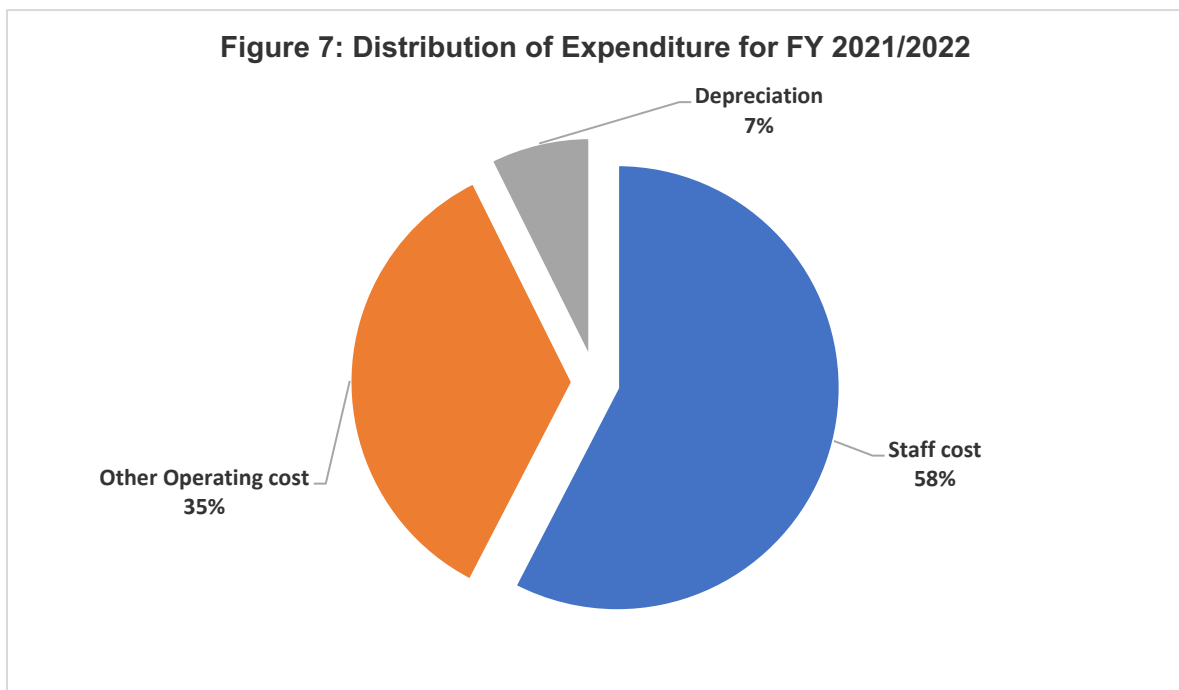
The distribution of Revenue for the FY 2022/23 is depicted in Figure 6 below:



Operating Expenditure

- The Operational cost of OU for the financial year 2022/2023 amounted to Rs305M. Total staff cost constituted 58% of total operating cost.
- OU has implemented major software systems including Blackboard (LMS), Accounting system and HR system, in the previous years and this has led to the depreciation of assets to the tune of Rs22M.
- Following the advice of the State Law Office and the report of the Director of Audit, OU is reversing provision for debtors for institutions to the tune of Rs0.7M. Also, OU has carried out an impairment of debtors for course fees from learners for the financial year 2014 and has reversed provision to the tune of Rs3.8M classified as irrecoverable, as the probability of recovery is very low.

The distribution of expenditure of OU for the FY 2022/23 is shown in **Figure 7** below:



E. WAY FORWARD

OU is benefiting from a sound financial position and has attained the “self-financing” status. With the significant growth in the student population reaching the milestone of 13,587 learners as at June 2023, OU has now secured a very comfortable position in the higher education landscape of Mauritius and has become a major key player in the Tertiary Education Sector. It is exploring possibilities of expansion beyond our borders in the Indian Ocean Rim region as well as the Asian and African Continents. In this context, OU has forged partnerships with several international higher education institutions in the African and Indian continents as well as other European HEIs.

During the first decade of its existence, OU’s priority has been to establish itself as a University offering quality higher education and it has shown same by its exponential increase in its learner population. Moreover, in order to provide a conducive learning environment to its learners, OU has embarked on

the project of construction of its new campus and it is confident that this project will be completed within the next few years.

For the next decade, OU plans to be more research-oriented and it is now preparing to steer its efforts towards invigorating research, increasing its research outputs and consolidating its research and innovation. Resources will be directed towards capacity building in research, attracting high calibre academics and researchers to OU, encouraging staff development, increasing number of PhD holders, increasing research publications as well as research and consultancy projects.



**REPORT OF THE
DIRECTOR OF AUDIT**

**On the Financial Statements
of the Open University of Mauritius
for the year ended 30 June 2023**

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE



NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT TO THE BOARD OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Open University of Mauritius, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023 and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets/equity, cash flow statement and statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including accounting policies.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of my report, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Open University of Mauritius as at 30 June 2023, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

Receivables - Rs 106,428,656

The completeness and accuracy of Receivables amounting to Rs 6,874,517 and Rs 50,705,145 relating to Course Fees due from learners for years prior to July 2018 and those due under the Free Tertiary Education Scheme as at 30 June 2023 respectively, could not be ascertained as sufficient and appropriate audit evidence was not obtained.

Property, Plant and Equipment – Rs 20,418,673

The useful life and residual value of assets were not reviewed annually as per IPSAS 17, *Property, Plant and Equipment*. Assets costing Rs 34,014,783 still in use, were accounted at zero carrying value as at 30 June 2023.

Intangible Assets – Rs 38,501,297

Intangible Assets were misstated as the useful life and the residual value of assets costing Rs 48,326,723 were not reviewed as at 30 June 2023 as per IPSAS 31, *Intangible Assets*.

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report. I am independent of the Open University of Mauritius in accordance with the INTOSAI Code of Ethics, together

with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Mauritius, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key Audit Matters are those matters that, in my professional judgment, were of most significance in my audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of my audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Except for the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of my report, I have determined that there are no key audit matters to communicate in my report.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report of the Open University of Mauritius, but does not include the financial statements and my report thereon.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with IPSASs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Open University of Mauritius's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Open University of Mauritius's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report

that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISSAIs, will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISSAIs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Open University of Mauritius's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Open University of Mauritius's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Open University of Mauritius to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I also provide those charged with governance with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or, when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse

consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Management's Responsibilities for Compliance

In addition to the responsibility for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements described above, management is also responsible to ensure that the Open University of Mauritius's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations, including compliance with the provisions of laws and regulations that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in an entity's financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibilities

In addition to the responsibility to express an opinion on the financial statements described above, I am also responsible to report to the Board whether:

- (a) I have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the audit;
- (b) the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act and any directions of the Minister, in so far as they relate to the accounts, have been complied with;
- (c) in my opinion, and, as far as could be ascertained from my examination of the financial statements submitted to me, any expenditure incurred is of an extravagant or wasteful nature, judged by normal commercial practice and prudence;
- (d) in my opinion, the Open University of Mauritius has been applying its resources and carrying out its operations economically, efficiently and effectively ; and
- (e) the provisions of Part V of the Public Procurement Act regarding the bidding process have been complied with.

I performed procedures, including the assessment of the risks of material non-compliance, to obtain audit evidence to discharge the above responsibilities.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act

I have obtained all information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of my audit.

As far as it could be ascertained from my examination of the relevant records:

- (a) the Open University of Mauritius has complied with the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act; and
- (b) no direction relating to the accounts has been issued by the responsible Minister to Open University of Mauritius.

Based on my examination of the records of Open University of Mauritius, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that:

- (a) expenditure incurred was of an extravagant or wasteful nature, judged by normal commercial practice and prudence; and
- (b) The University has not applied its resources and carried out its operations economically, efficiently and effectively.

Other Matter

The financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 were received at my Office on 30 October 2023. Following audit, management was informed on 19 April 2024 of amendments to be made to the financial statements. The approved amended financial statements were to be submitted to my Office by 26 April 2024. As of the date of this report, the amended financial statements were not yet submitted.

This report is being issued on the basis of the last approved financial statements received at my Office.

Public Procurement Act

In my opinion, the provisions of Part V of the Act have been complied with as far as it could be ascertained from my examination of the relevant records.



DR D. PALIGADU
Director of Audit

National Audit Office
Level 14
Air Mauritius Centre
PORT LOUIS

30 April 2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2023

ANNUAL REPORT
—— 2022 - 2023 ——

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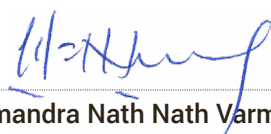
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

		30-Jun 2023	30-Jun 2022
	Notes	Rs	Rs
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5	497,207,033	326,145,752
Receivables	6	106,428,656	158,468,837
Inventories	7	3,160,569	3,270,939
		606,796,258	487,885,528
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Receivables - Car Loan	8	8,406,719	6,132,959
Property, Plant & Equipment	9	20,418,673	28,559,352
Intangible Assets	10	38,501,297	40,294,860
		67,326,689	74,987,171
TOTAL ASSETS		674,122,947	562,872,699
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	11	40,022,817	25,730,633
Car Loans	12	2,759,045	2,975,059
Employee Benefits	13	13,000,000	15,000,000
		55,781,862	43,705,692
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Car Loans	12	8,447,033	6,733,295
Long-term Employee Benefits	13	66,787,194	68,652,021
Pension Obligation	14	422,406,249	391,790,541
		497,640,476	467,175,857
TOTAL LIABILITIES		553,422,338	510,881,549
NET ASSETS		120,700,609	51,991,150
EQUITY			
Accumulated Funds		120,700,609	51,991,150
TOTAL EQUITY		120,700,609	51,991,150

The notes on pages 138 to 157 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

Approved by the Board of the Open University of Mauritius on 29 September 2023


 Mr Oomandra Nath Nath Varma, OSK
 Chairman


 Mrs Subhashini Luckshmi Devi Gopee
 Officer-in-Charge

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

		30-Jun 2023	30-Jun 2022
	Notes	Rs	Rs
REVENUE			
Revenue from Exchange Transactions	15.1	390,921,153	415,270,098
Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions	15.2	15,510,920	30,080,294
TOTAL REVENUE		<u>406,432,073</u>	<u>445,350,392</u>
EXPENSES			
Staff Costs	16	175,522,237	182,664,345
Depreciation and Amortisation Expense	9 & 10	22,402,446	23,590,544
Other Operating Expenses	17	106,759,225	110,657,350
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>304,683,908</u>	<u>316,912,239</u>
SURPLUS		<u>101,748,165</u>	<u>128,438,153</u>

The notes on pages 138 to 157 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS/EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Notes	Accumulated Fund Rs
Opening Balance as at 01 July 2021		15,166,361
Surplus for the year		128,438,153
Remeasurement on Actuarial Loss	14	(89,489,777)
Prior year adjustments		(2,123,587)
Closing Balance as at 30 June 2022		<u>51,991,150</u>
Opening Balance as at 01 July 2022		51,991,150
Surplus for the year		101,748,165
Remeasurement on Actuarial Loss	14	(27,919,866)
Prior Year Adjustments	27	(5,118,840)
Closing Balance as at 30 June 2023		<u>120,700,609</u>

The notes on pages 138 to 157 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	30-Jun 2023 Rs	30-Jun 2022 Rs
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Surplus for the year	101,748,165	128,438,153
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and Amortisation Expense	22,402,446	23,590,544
Prior Year Adjustment	(5,118,840)	(2,123,587)
Remeasurement on Actuarial (Gain)	(27,919,866)	(89,489,777)
Pension Liability	30,615,708	92,885,922
Loss/(Gain) on disposal of Non-Current Assets	21,890	(57,000)
Operating Profit before working capital changes	121,749,504	153,244,255
Changes in Working Capital:		
Decrease / (Increase) in Receivables	49,766,421	(7,314,832)
Decrease in Inventories	110,370	363,290
Increase in Payables	11,925,082	13,718,264
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	183,551,376	160,010,977
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of Non-Current Assets	(12,521,595)	(54,474,167)
Proceeds from Disposal of Non-Current Assets	31,500	57,000
NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(12,490,095)	(54,417,167)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	-	-
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	171,061,281	105,593,810
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD	326,145,752	220,551,942
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD	497,207,033	326,145,752

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

1. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and Cash Equivalents consist of cash in hand and balances with bank. Cash and Cash Equivalents included in the Cash Flow Statement comprised the Statement of Financial Position amounts.

	Rs	Rs
Cash and Cash Equivalents are made up of:		
Investment in Treasury Bills	294,504,000	-
Cash at bank	202,635,813	326,085,149
Cash in hand	67,220	60,603
Cash and Cash Equivalents at year end	497,207,033	326,145,752

2. Non-Current Assets

Non-current assets were acquired at an aggregate cost of Rs3,843,552, out of which Rs1,611,804 was financed by means of capital grant from the Government.

The notes on pages 138 to 157 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts on Comparable Basis	Difference Original and Final Budget Amounts	Notes	Difference Final Budget and Actual Amounts	Notes
	Original	Final					
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs		Rs	
RECEIPTS:							
Recurrent Grant							
Development of a Mobile App for Timetable of Students, Student Information System, Email Management System and Payment Gateway	(4,000,000)	-	-	(4,000,000)	18.2.1	-	
Top-up Capital Grant 22/23; Acquisition of Software: New Learner Registration System (SIMS)	-	(14,150,000)	(14,150,000)	14,150,000	18.2.1	-	
Top-up of Capital Grant 2022/23 - Other Equipment	(2,000,000)	(13,350,000)	(13,350,000)	11,350,000	18.2.1	-	
Government Recurrent Grant	10,200,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	200,000		-	
Recurrent Grant- (MOE) NYCBE MOE: Embellishment Works in Public TEIs: Funds allocated under Economic Recovery (ERP)	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,524,400	-		(475,600)	
Course Fees- Govt (FTES) B/F	-	1,500,000	-	(1,500,000)		(1,500,000)	
Course Fees- OU Learners (Including Admin Fee)	125,000,000	-	-	125,000,000	18.2.2	-	18.3.1
Course Fees- OU Learners (Postgraduate, Sponsorship & Others)	-	128,876,250	82,818,060	(128,876,250)	18.2.2	(46,058,190)	18.3.1
Course Fees- OU Learners (Admin Fees)	-	44,000,000	47,004,285	(44,000,000)	18.2.2	3,004,285	18.3.1
Course Fees- Govt (Free Tertiary Education Scheme)	203,000,000	237,500,000	173,496,150	(34,500,000)	18.2.2	(64,003,850)	18.3.1
Refund from HEC: CSG	3,000,000	-	-	3,000,000		-	
Other Income	13,000,000	20,000,000	24,281,385	(7,000,000)	18.2.3	4,281,385	
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>351,200,000</u>	<u>545,876,250</u>	<u>436,765,866</u>	<u>(194,676,250)</u>	-	<u>(109,110,384)</u>	
Capital Grant							
Top-up Capital Grant 22/23; Acquisition of Software: New Learner Registration System (SIMS)	4,000,000	-	-	-		-	
Top-up Capital Grant 22/23; Acquisition of Software: New Learner Registration System (SIMS)	-	14,150,000	14,150,000	(14,150,000)		-	
Top-up of Capital Grant 2022/23 - Other Equipment	2,000,000	13,350,000	13,350,000	(11,350,000)		-	
Capital Grant	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,980,454	-		(19,546)	
Capital Grant- MOE (NYCBE)	3,000,000	4,280,875	2,191,967	(1,280,875)		(2,088,908)	
Grant MOE (NYCBE) Recurrent Expenditure	-	(232,645)	(232,645)	232,645		-	
<i>Sub Total</i>	<u>12,000,000</u>	<u>34,548,230</u>	<u>32,439,776</u>	<u>(22,548,230)</u>		<u>(2,108,454)</u>	
Total Receipts	<u>363,200,000</u>	<u>580,424,480</u>	<u>469,205,642</u>	<u>(217,224,480)</u>		<u>(111,218,838)</u>	

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 (CONT.)

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts on Comparable Basis	Difference Original and Final Budget Amounts	Notes	Difference Final Budget and Actual Amounts	Notes
	Original	Final					
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs		Rs	
PAYMENTS:							
Recurrent Expenditure							
Personal Emoluments							
Salary	106,600,000	103,000,000	97,634,268	(3,600,000)	18.2.4	5,365,732	
Compensation 2022	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,102,648	-		197,352	
Compensation 2023	-	1,600,000	1,380,596	1,600,000		219,404	
End of Year Bonus	8,900,000	8,500,000	7,973,903	(400,000)		526,097	
Allowances	800,000	2,500,000	2,268,769	1,700,000		231,231	
Extra Assistance	3,000,000	1,200,000	936,543	(1,800,000)		263,457	
Passage Credit	4,000,000	5,000,000	3,808,728	(1,000,000)		1,191,272	
Overtime	4,000,000	6,800,000	6,471,375	2,800,000	18.2.5	328,625	
Pensions contribution & Gratuity & PRGF	26,400,000	26,000,000	25,034,033	(400,000)		965,967	
Social Contribution (SC) & Social Contribution Allowance (SCA)	8,200,000	7,000,000	6,649,963	(1,200,000)		350,037	
National Savings Fund	2,000,000	1,500,000	1,395,070	(500,000)		104,930	
Cash In Lieu of Sick Leave	6,000,000	7,200,000	6,059,906	1,200,000		1,140,094	
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>171,200,000</i>	<i>171,600,000</i>	<i>160,715,802</i>	<i>400,000</i>		<i>10,884,198</i>	
Travelling and Transport:							
Refund of Bus Fares	5,000,000	6,400,000	5,448,246	1,400,000		951,754	
Travel Grant	2,500,000	2,200,000	1,913,734	(300,000)		286,266	
Commuted Travel & Petrol Allowance	5,000,000	4,200,000	3,831,040	(800,000)		368,960	
Mileage	700,000	900,000	705,862	200,000		194,138	
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>13,200,000</i>	<i>13,700,000</i>	<i>11,898,882</i>	<i>500,000</i>		<i>1,801,118</i>	18.3.2
COST OF RUNNING OFFICE							
Uniforms	150,000	226,500	173,605	76,500		52,895	
Chairperson/Board Fees	1,500,000	3,600,000	3,224,284	2,100,000	18.2.6	375,716	
Medical Scheme	1,400,000	1,000,000	800,500	(400,000)		199,500	
Telephone & Postages	3,500,000	3,800,000	3,217,416	300,000		582,584	
Electricity	3,500,000	3,400,000	3,243,051	(100,000)		156,949	
Water	150,000	150,000	100,757	-		49,243	
Motor Vehicles Running Expenses	1,600,000	1,900,000	1,478,578	300,000		421,422	
Office Expenses & Incidentals	1,200,000	700,000	543,587	(500,000)		156,413	
Hospitality & Ceremonials	1,000,000	1,000,000	758,570	-		241,430	
Publicity, Advertisement & Recruitment Expenses	300,000	300,000	244,826	-		55,174	
Insurance of Staff	300,000	200,000	180,092	(100,000)		19,908	
Overseas Passages & Allowances	1,000,000	1,000,000	121,806	-		878,194	
Office Stationery	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,329,175	-		670,825	
Legal & Consultancy Fees	300,000	300,000	202,600	-		97,400	
Repairs & Maintenance: Building & Equipment	17,500,000	12,200,000	11,570,546	(5,300,000)	18.2.7	629,454	
Audit Fees	400,000	400,000	350,000	-		50,000	

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 (CONT.)

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts on Comparable Basis	Difference Original and Final Budget Amounts	Notes	Difference Final Budget and Actual Amounts	Notes
	Original	Final					
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs		Rs	
Insurance of Building, Equipment & Furniture	250,000	150,000	112,382	(100,000)		37,618	
Institutional Links	1,500,000	1,200,000	622,397	(300,000)		577,603	
Security Services	2,000,000	1,800,000	1,552,030	(200,000)		247,970	
Graphics/Printing & Audio-Visual Materials	3,500,000	3,200,000	2,744,167	(300,000)		455,833	
Resource Centre (Library)	2,000,000	11,442,000	10,720,781	9,442,000	18.2.8	721,219	
Marketing & Outreach Activities	4,500,000	3,000,000	1,862,758	(1,500,000)		1,137,242	
Staff Development & Training	1,500,000	1,000,000	603,467	(500,000)		396,533	
Research & Development	2,500,000	2,500,000	1,570,007	-		929,993	
Quality Assurance Activities	1,000,000	200,000	48,301	(800,000)		151,699	
<i>Academic Affairs:</i>							
Induction Expenses	300,000	100,000	20,290	(200,000)		79,710	
Part-time Tutors	14,000,000	18,500,000	16,779,241	4,500,000	18.2.9	1,720,759	18.3.3
Marking of Assignments/Projects	12,000,000	17,000,000	16,574,171	5,000,000	18.2.9	425,829	18.3.3
Exams Expenses	18,000,000	26,000,000	23,180,780	8,000,000	18.2.9	2,819,220	18.3.3
Educational Software Licences	200,000	120,000	100,199	(80,000)		19,801	
Insurance of Part-Timers & Learners	2,000,000	2,800,000	767,087	800,000	18.2.9	2,032,913	18.3.3
General Academic Expenses	1,000,000	2,000,000	206,647	1,000,000	18.2.9	1,793,353	18.3.3
Programme Development	3,300,000	10,000,000	8,753,731	6,700,000	18.2.9	1,246,269	18.3.3
Supervision of Doctoral Learners	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,052,145	-		447,855	18.3.3
Tablets for Learners	9,200,000	-	-	(9,200,000)	18.2.10	-	
Award Ceremonies & Conferences	2,000,000	2,000,000	1,574,187	-		425,813	
Overseas Study Centres	2,500,000	500,000	-	(2,000,000)		500,000	
Collaboration with other Universities	5,000,000	3,000,000	1,619,958	(2,000,000)		1,380,042	
Rental of Building & Parking for delivery of courses	100,000	100,000	37,250	-		62,750	
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>126,650,000</i>	<i>141,288,500</i>	<i>119,041,369</i>	<i>14,638,500</i>		<i>22,247,131</i>	
 <u>SPECIAL ITEM:</u>							
Funds reserved for consultancy services and for the construction of Campus at Côte d'Or	75,000,000	297,806,000	294,504,000	222,806,000	18.2.11	3,302,000	
Rental of land at Côte d'Or	-	690,000	690,000	690,000		-	
Registration and other fees	-	-	565	-		(565)	
Project Management Consultant	-	1,100,000	-	1,100,000		1,100,000	
<i>Sub Total</i>	<i>75,000,000</i>	<i>299,596,000</i>	<i>295,194,565</i>	<i>224,596,000</i>		<i>4,401,435</i>	
 <i>ADDITIONS TO NON-CURRENT ASSETS</i>							
	<i>12,000,000</i>	<i>46,919,738</i>	<i>3,883,812</i>	<i>34,919,738</i>		<i>43,035,926</i>	
TOTAL PAYMENTS	398,050,000	673,104,238	590,734,430	275,054,238		82,369,808	

The notes on pages 138 to 157 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

1. GENERAL INFORMATION ON REPORTING ENTITY

The Open University was established by the Open University Act No. 2 of 2010. This Act was proclaimed on 12 July 2012.

The Open University is a corporate body wholly owned by the Government of Mauritius under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology.

The objects of the Open University are to:

- (a) advance and disseminate learning and knowledge through a diversity of means, with emphasis on information and communication technologies;
- (b) provide wider opportunities for education and training to the population, through open and distance learning and promote lifelong learning;
- (c) encourage the use of open and distance learning at all levels of education and training through collaboration, optimal use of existing resources and good practices;
- (d) encourage and promote scholarship and conduct research and development in educational technology and related matters; and
- (e) be the focal point for the provision of open and distance learning in Mauritius through establishment of active partnership with local public and private institutions, as well as overseas institutions engaged in providing education and training.

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

(a) Statement of Compliance

The Financial Statements of the Open University have been prepared in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs) issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB).

(b) Going Concern

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis and the accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period. They have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

OU is governed by the Statutory Bodies Pension Fund Act and as per the provisions of the Act, an actuarial valuation of the pension fund needs to be carried out at intervals of not more than 5 years. The pension fund of OU is being managed by the State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd (SICOM Ltd). As per the Valuation Report as at June 2019, SICOM Ltd has advised that the contribution rate needs to be increased as well as funds need to be injected to ensure the sustainability of the Pension Fund over the forthcoming years in the best interest of beneficiaries. OU is expecting policy guidelines from competent authorities and will do needful adjustments in the Pension Fund. OU has already increased the rate of contribution from 17.5% to 22% for the period up to 30 June 2024 (up to next valuation exercise) and annual injection of Rs10 million for the next four years until 2024, effective as from January 2021.

(c) Use of Estimates and Judgements

The preparation of Financial Statements, in conformity with IPSAS and generally accepted accounting practices, requires the use of estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the Financial Statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period.

In the application of OU's accounting policies, which are described in Note 4, Management is required to make judgements, estimates, and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions, based on actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the estimate affects only that period or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. Estimates include but are not limited to fair valuation of inventories, accounts receivable, accrued charges, contingent assets and liabilities, and degree of impairment of property, plant and equipment.

(d) Functional and Presentation of Currency

The Financial Statements are presented in Mauritian Rupees. Roundings have been done where applicable to the nearest rupee.

(e) Reporting Date

The present Financial Statements have been prepared for the year ending 30 June 2023. Comparative figures relate to the period 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

(f) Measurement Base

The accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of the Financial Performance, Cash Flows, and Financial Position are on accrual basis using historical cost except for Property, Plant and Equipment which have been based on fair value.

3. IPSAS ISSUED BUT NOT YET EFFECTIVE

The Financial Statements comply in all material respects with applicable International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

In the current period, the Open University has adopted all of the improvements and amendments to the standards effective at the reporting date.

IPSAS 3 (Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors) requires disclosure of new IPSAS that have been issued but are not yet effective.

(a) IPSAS 43 - Leases (Effective as from 01 January 2025)

IPSAS 43 prescribes the principles for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of leases. The objective is to ensure that leases and lessors provide relevant information in a manner that faithfully represents those transactions. This information gives a basis for users of financial statements to assess the effect that leases have on the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of an entity.

(b) (b) IPSAS 44 - Non-current Assets held for Sale and Discontinued Operations (effective as from 01 January 2025)

IPSAS 44 prescribes the accounting treatment for assets held for sale and the presentation and disclosure of discontinued operations. The standard requires:

- (i) Assets that meet the criteria to be classified on hold for sale to be measured at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell and depreciation on such assets to cease; and
- (ii) Assets that meet the criteria to be classified as held for sale to be presented separately in the statement of financial position and the results of discontinued operations to be presented separately in the statement of financial position.

(c) IPSAS 45 – Property, Plant and Equipment (Effective as from 01 January 2025)

IPSAS 45 removes the scope exclusion for heritage assets that satisfy the definition of property, plant and equipment.

IPSAS 45 includes Application Guidance that identifies specific characteristics that distinguish infrastructure assets from other property, plant and equipment and prevent complexities in the application and implementation of the principles.

(d) IPSAS 46 – Measurement of Assets and Liabilities in Financial Statements (Effective as from 01 January 2025)

The subsequent measurement framework developed in Chapter 7 of the Conceptual Framework explains the relationship between the various components required to estimate the value of an asset and liability. In developing the subsequent measurement framework, the IPSASB identified three levels of measurement: Measurement Models, Measurement Bases and Measurement Techniques.

IPSAS 46 prescribes the use of “Current Operational Value” concept as a measurement basis to respond to the key service delivery characteristic of many assets held by public sector entities. Current Operational Value is the amount the entity would pay for the remaining service potential of an asset at the measurement date.

To reflect the unique characteristics of assets held in the public sector, Current Operational Value measures assets in their existing use.

(e) IPSAS 47 – Revenue (Effective as from 01 January 2026)

IPSAS 47 replaces IPSAS 9, IPSAS 11 and IPSAS 23.

IPSAS 47 presents two accounting models, based on the existence of a binding arrangement. IPSAS 47 first requires an entity to determine whether its revenue arises from a transaction with a binding arrangement, to determine the appropriate accounting model. The principles within the models enable the entity to reflect the substance of its revenue transaction.

The accounting arrangement is an arrangement that confers both rights and obligation, enforceable through legal or equivalent means, on the parties to the arrangement. As such, an entity must have at least an enforceable right and an enforceable obligation.

The accounting model for revenue without binding arrangements requires an entity to consider whether any of its rights or its obligations in the revenue transactions are enforceable, and meet the definition of an asset or liability, respectively.

(f) IPSAS 48 – Transfer Expenses (Effective as from 01 June 2026)

IPSAS 48 prescribes the accounting requirements for transfer expenses.

A transfer expense is an expense arising from a transaction, other than taxes, in which an entity provides a good, service or other asset to another entity, without directly receiving any good, service or other asset in return.

IPSAS 48 presents two accounting models based on the existence of a binding arrangement. IPSAS 48 includes comprehensive guidance for an entity to determine whether their transaction arising from a binding arrangement or without a binding arrangement, and consequently, which accounting model to apply.

4. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies of the Open University are as follows:

4.1 Property, Plant and Equipment

(a) Land and Buildings

Government provides the land and buildings, which OU, along with other institutions, is occupying at Le Réduit and Curepipe. The land and buildings have not been accounted for in the Financial Statements.

(b) Impairment

Property, Plant and Equipment are stated at cost or revalued amount less accumulated depreciation and any recognised impairment losses.

At each balance sheet date, OU reviews the carrying amount of its tangible assets to determine whether there is an indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss and the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount.

If the recoverable amount of an asset or cash-generating unit is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset or cash-generating unit is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Performance, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

OU proceeded with three Board of Surveys during the Financial Year 2022/2023 and proceeded with the write-off of items of Property, Plant and Equipment.

(c) Revaluation

The fleet of vehicles was revalued as at 30 June 2017 and the revaluation surplus has been transferred to the Statement of Changes in Net Assets/Equity.

At the end of the Financial Year, there was no sign of impairment of existing vehicles which would have required a revaluation of the fleet of vehicles.

As regards to other classes of assets, impairment reviews are conducted and OU is considering to revalue certain classes of assets as from the next Financial Year.

(d) Capitalisation Policy

Tangible assets with a total contract value below the Rs 5,000 threshold are expensed in the Statement of Financial Performance during the year of acquisition.

(e) Depreciation Charges

Depreciation is charged so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets, other than land and properties under construction, over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method as follows:-

	No. of years
Audio-Visual Equipment	1 to 15
Computer Equipment	2 to 7
Furniture and Fittings, Driveway and Parking Area	10
Office Equipment	5 to 10
Motor Vehicles	3 to 7
Printing and Graphics Equipment	5 to 20
Tools	5

(f) Disposal

Depreciation is fully charged in the year of acquisition and no charge is made in the year of disposal.

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an item of plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the net sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Three Boards of Survey were carried out during the Financial Year. Based on the report of the Boards of Survey, the items of Property, Plant and Equipment were carted away in line with Government Regulations/ Guidelines. However, OU proceeded with a 'sale' exercise for scrap metal shelves which had a resale value. The gain from the disposal has been accrued in the Accounts as an 'Adjusting Event'.

(g) Subsequent Costs

The cost of replacing part of an item of Property, Plant and Equipment is recognised in the carrying amount of the item if it is probable that the future economic benefits will flow to OU and its cost can be measured reliably. The costs of the day-to-day servicing of property, plant and equipment are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance as incurred.

(h) Lease

In August 2021, the Open University of Mauritius signed a lease agreement with Landscape (Mauritius) Ltd for the lease of 10 arpents (42,223 M²) of land situated at Côte d'Or, in the District of Moka.

The leased land is intended for the construction of a new OU Campus in the New Education Hub at Côte d'Or in line with Government decision following Budget Speech 2021.

The lease is for an initial period of thirty years commencing 01 August 2021 and may be reviewed for two consecutive periods of thirty years after the termination of the first lease period of thirty years; that is, 31 July 2051.

In line with IPSAS 13 - Leases; the lease has been classified under operating lease.

OU appointed a Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the implementation of the Project for the Construction of a new campus at the new Education Hub. Following the advice from the PMC and meetings held with Landscape (Mauritius) Ltd, OU was allocated another plot of land in the Education Hub and the Board approved the cancellation of the existing lease on 31 August 2023.

(i) Donations

No donation was received during the Financial Year 2022/23.

4.2 Intangible Assets

Intangible assets are recognised only if:

- (a) it is probable that future economic benefits that are attributable to the assets will flow to the enterprise;
and
- (b) the cost of the assets can be measured reliably.

Programme development costs and license fees for course materials are recognised as intangible assets and amortised using the straight-line basis over the projected life of the course/programme or the accreditation period, whichever is greater, but in either case no longer than five years.

License fees paid for rights of pre-recorded programmes and computer software that are not considered to form an integral part of any hardware equipment are recognised as intangible assets and their costs are amortised using the straight-line basis.

Intangible assets are amortised so as to write off the cost of intangibles over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method as follows:-

	No. of years
Rights	5
Production Software	1 to 10
Computer Software	5 to 7
Programme Development	5

4.3 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise bank balances and cash in hand.

4.4 Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost (determined on a first-in-first-out basis) or net realisable value. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the inventories to their present location and condition. Net realisable value represents the estimated selling price less all estimated costs of completion and costs to be incurred in selling.

4.5 Provisions and Contingent Liabilities

A provision is recognised when OU has a present obligation as a result of a past event; when it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential will be required to settle the obligation; and when a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are reviewed at the end of each financial period to determine the current best estimate.

Other commitments which do not meet the recognition criteria for liabilities are disclosed in the notes to the Financial Statements as contingent liabilities when their existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events which are not wholly within the control of OU.

4.6 Retirement and Other Benefit Obligations

4.6.1 Employee Entitlements

Employees' entitlements to salaries, pension costs, and other benefits are recognised when they are earned.

Sick Leave Benefits

As per the conditions of service prescribed in the *PRB Report and Conditions of Service*, employees are allowed to accumulate sick leaves not taken at the end of each calendar year up to a maximum of 110 days, in a sick leave bank. The balance of bank sick leave is valued at the end of the financial year and is recognised as long-term payables. Beyond this ceiling of 110 days, officers are refunded part of the annual entitlement of sick leaves not taken at the end of every calendar year and this is expensed to the Statement of Financial Performance. Following the Finance Act 2020, no refund of sick leave was effected in February 2021. Accordingly, the sick leave balance payable was accumulated in Bank Sick Leave up to a maximum of 126 days. Provision has been made for bank sick leave up to a maximum of 126 days under long-term benefits.

Passage Benefits

A provision is made for the estimated liability for passage benefits. The passage benefits for each eligible staff is valued at year end. The annual increase in passage benefits entitlement is expensed to the Statement of Financial Performance.

Based on past experience and payment trends, an amount has been transferred from long-term liabilities to short-term liabilities to provide for any forthcoming payments of passage benefits in the next financial year.

Vacation Leave Benefits

In line with the *PRB Report and Conditions of Service*, a provision is made for the estimated liability for encashment of vacation leave. The amount for accumulated vacation leave for each staff is valued at year end. Short-term benefit includes provision for vacation leave entitlements for officers who may proceed on early retirement. The increase/decrease in vacation leave during the year is charged to the Statement of Financial Performance.

4.6.2 Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Provision for retirement pension benefits is made under the Statutory Bodies Pension Funds Act of 1978 as amended.

For employees who were in the public service at 31 December 2012, the scheme is a defined benefit plan and its assets are managed by SICOM Ltd. The cost of providing the benefits is actuarially determined using the projected unit credit method.

IPSAS 25 pertaining to pension benefits has been repealed and a new standard on pensions, IPSAS 39 is effective for annual financial statements covering periods beginning on or after 01 January 2018. There have been significant changes to the pension benefit disclosures and these changes being applicable as from 01 July 2018 has major impact on the accounting disclosures and reporting for the financial year 2018/2019 onwards.

The main areas of changes are as follows:

Statement of Financial Position

Currently, IPSAS permit public sector entities to defer the recognition of certain actuarial gains and losses arising from defined benefit plans (the "corridor approach"). IPSAS 39 removed the "corridor approach". This means that the actuarial gains and losses should be recognised immediately in the Statement of Financial Position. The remeasurements are recognised in Net Assets/Equity in the period in which they occur. A surplus is recognised as a net defined benefit asset and a deficit as a net defined liability.

Statement of Financial Performance

As regards to the Statement of Financial Performance, the two items (interest cost and expected return) will be replaced by a single item: the "Net Interest Expense/Revenue". For this purpose, the assumption for the discount rate and the expected rate of return on plan assets will be the same.

Other Changes:

- (i) More disclosures in terms of description of risk exposure, plan amendments and actuarial assumptions used.
- (ii) Sensitivity analysis, i.e. the effect of a change in each major actuarial assumption on the Defined Benefit Obligation.
- (ii) IPSAS 39 makes explicit the mortality assumptions used to determine the defined benefit obligation is the best estimate of the mortality plan members both during and after employment.

4.6.3 State Plan and Defined Contribution Plans

For employees appointed for the first time in the service from 01 January 2013 onwards, Government has set up a Public Sector Defined Contribution Plan, managed by SICOM Ltd. The defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a fund. OU will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to the Public Sector Defined Contribution Plan, the National Pension Scheme, the Family Protection Scheme and the National Savings Fund are expensed in the same financial year.

4.6.4 Car Loans

Car loans are disbursed to OU by the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology on applications by eligible employees as part of their conditions of service. The loans are executed by way of a registered agreement between OU and the employees. The car loans which bear an interest rate of 1% to 3% per annum are repayable monthly over a period of five or seven years. The balances of principal amounts are shown as "Short-term and long-term loans". Corresponding carrying amounts are shown under "Receivables".

4.7 Revenue Recognition

Revenue comprises mainly government grants, course fees and sales of goods and services.

4.7.1 Government Grants

Grants are recognised as revenue to the extent that all conditions attached to the grant are satisfied. All government grants received are therefore recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance in the year of receipt.

4.7.2 Course Fees

OU is a provider of learning and knowledge through a diversity of means, with emphasis on Open and Distance Learning programmes. Fees for these programmes are collected on a semester basis and recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance in the same period of instruction.

4.7.3 Sale of Goods and Services

Sale of goods and services is recognised when the goods and services have been delivered or performed and accepted by the clients and are billable after taking into consideration revenue waived for work done for governmental institutions.

4.8 Expenses

Expenses are charged to the accounts on an accrual basis.

4.9 Risk Management Policies

A description of the various risks which the Board is exposed to, is shown below together with the approach adopted by Management to control and mitigate those risks. Except where stated elsewhere, the carrying amounts of OU's financial assets and financial liabilities approximate their fair values.

Currency Risk

Currency risk arises from purchase of goods, services and receipts of revenue which are denominated in foreign currencies are negotiated at prevailing exchange rates.

Operational Risk

Operational risk, which is inherent in all organisations' activities, is the risk of financial loss instability arising from failures in internal controls, operational processes or the system that supports them. It is recognised that such risks can never be entirely eliminated and the costs of controls in minimising these risks may outweigh the potential benefits.

Financial Risk

Except for cash held at bank in current accounts, OU does not have any investment in term deposits nor any loan commitments. Hence, it is not exposed to interest rate risk.

OU's credit risk is primarily attributable to its receivables. Management reviews all outstanding amounts at year end to determine doubtful receivables.

OU does not have significant liquidity risk. All funds come from learners and the Government. Forecast cash requirements are closely monitored to meet liquidity requirements.

Legal Risk

Legal risk is the risk that business activities of the Board have unintended or unexpected legal consequences. The Board identifies and manages legal risks through legal advice from the State Law Office on all its day-to-day dealings.

4.10 Taxation

No provision has been made in the Financial Statements for income tax and value added tax, on the basis that OU is exempted.

4.11 Foreign Currency Transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to Mauritian rupee at the exchange rate ruling at the date of transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rate ruling at balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising on settlement are recognised in surplus or deficit.

4.12 Comparative Figures

When an accounting policy is changed with retrospective effect, comparative figures are restated in accordance with the new policy.

4.13 Disclosure of Interests in other Entities

OU has signed a lease agreement with Landscape (Mauritius) Ltd for the lease of 10 arpents of land at Côte d'Or. OU intends to develop its new campus on the site under the Knowledge Hub Corridor as announced in Budget Speech 2021.

In line with Section 37 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act and Section 6(g) of OU Act, OU has incorporated a private company namely, OU Campus Development Ltd. The said company was incorporated on 26 May 2022 with a share capital of Rs 100 comprising 100 Ordinary Shares. OU Campus Development Ltd is a company limited by shares and its principal place of business is Royal Road, Réduit. The OU Board has appointed two Directors and a Company Secretary.

OU Campus Development Ltd will oversee the construction of the new campus of OU with the aim to ensure the project is realized within time frame set up by OU Board.

As at 30 June 2023, there was no transaction in the books of OU Campus Development Ltd. In line with IPSAS 38 – 'Disclosure of Interests in other Entities'; the new entity is being categorized as an 'Interest in Structure Entities' and it has not been consolidated in the Financial Statements of the Open University of Mauritius.

As at 30 June 2023, the extent and nature of interest are not material and the level of the risk associated with the structured entity is very low.

	30-Jun 2023 Rs	30-Jun 2022 Rs
5. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Investment in Treasury Bills	294,504,000	-
Cash at bank	202,635,813	326,085,149
Cash in hand	67,220	60,603
Total	497,207,033	326,145,752

The Open University has no undrawn borrowing facilities.

6. RECEIVABLES AND PREPAYMENTS		
Course fees due - Learners	9,535,554	14,253,293
Debtors other Institutions	3,840,901	2,284,952
Works commissioned by clients	107,630	940,499
Affiliation fees prepaid	355,433	885,492
Other prepayments	6,347,619	3,139,046
Car Loans (Note 8)	2,799,359	3,030,395
Sundry Debtors	2,482,491	1,677,461
Interest Receivables	2,108,744	-
Course fees receivable - FTES	78,850,925	132,257,700
Total	106,428,656	158,468,837

7. INVENTORIES		
	Carrying amount at 30 June 2023 Rs	Carrying amount at 30 June 2022 Rs
Materials and supplies	2,821,889	2,918,719
Finished goods	338,680	352,220
Total	3,160,569	3,270,939

8. RECEIVABLES CAR LOANS		
Movement in car loans were as follows:		
Amount due as at 01 July	9,163,354	9,555,897
Loans released to staff	6,500,989	3,374,650
Loans refunded by staff	(4,458,265)	(3,767,193)
Amount due as at 30 June	11,206,078	9,163,354
Deduct: Amount falling due within one year	(2,799,359)	(3,030,395)
Amount falling due after one year	8,406,719	6,132,959

9. NON-CURRENT ASSETS - PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

	PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT		FURNITURE & FITTINGS, OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND PARKING SPACE		MOTOR VEHICLES		COMPUTER EQUIPMENT		TOTAL	
	30 June 2023	30 June 2022	30 June 2023	30 June 2022	30 June 2023	30 June 2022	30 June 2023	30 June 2022	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
Reporting Period										
Opening Carrying Amount	77,200,161	76,004,093	62,794,192	59,539,301	4,951,475	5,386,475	34,346,211	27,376,590	179,292,039	168,306,460
Additions	609,615	1,196,068	1,269,093	3,254,891	-	-	1,676,440	6,969,621	3,555,148	11,420,580
Disposals	(146,840)	-	(2,802,018)	-	-	(435,000)	(4,187,181)	-	(7,136,039)	(435,000)
<i>Closing Carrying Amount</i>	<i>77,662,936</i>	<i>77,200,161</i>	<i>61,261,267</i>	<i>62,794,192</i>	<i>4,951,475</i>	<i>4,951,475</i>	<i>31,835,470</i>	<i>34,346,211</i>	<i>175,711,148</i>	<i>179,292,040</i>
Opening Accumulated Depreciation	(68,158,036)	(62,488,673)	(53,353,288)	(49,405,874)	(2,986,270)	(2,539,546)	(26,235,094)	(23,241,438)	(150,732,688)	(137,675,531)
Depreciation for the period	(4,544,196)	(5,669,363)	(3,317,542)	(3,947,414)	(836,723)	(881,724)	(2,943,975)	(2,993,656)	(11,642,436)	(13,492,157)
Disposals	146,840	-	2,748,625	-	-	435,000	4,187,181	-	7,082,646	435,000
<i>Closing Accumulated Depreciation</i>	<i>(72,555,392)</i>	<i>(68,158,036)</i>	<i>(53,922,205)</i>	<i>(53,353,288)</i>	<i>(3,822,993)</i>	<i>(2,986,270)</i>	<i>(24,991,888)</i>	<i>(26,235,094)</i>	<i>(155,292,478)</i>	<i>(150,732,688)</i>
Net Carrying Amount	5,107,544	9,042,125	7,339,062	9,440,904	1,128,482	1,965,205	6,843,582	8,111,117	20,418,673	28,559,352

10. NON-CURRENT ASSETS - INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	RIGHTS		PRODUCTION SOFTWARE		COMPUTER SOFTWARE		PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT		TOTAL	
	30 June 2023	30 June 2022	30 June 2023	30 June 2022	30 June 2023	30 June 2022	30 June 2023	30 June 2022	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
Reporting Period										
Opening Carrying Amount	1,646,347	1,438,984	-	717,412	46,337,467	7,550,586	49,142,428	45,292,715	97,126,242	54,999,697
Additions	-	207,363	-	-	288,404	38,786,881	8,678,043	4,059,343	8,966,447	43,053,587
Write-off of Assets	-	-	-	(717,412)	-	-	(370,000)	(209,630)	(370,000)	(927,042)
<i>Closing Carrying Amount</i>	<i>1,646,347</i>	<i>1,646,347</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>46,625,871</i>	<i>46,337,467</i>	<i>57,450,471</i>	<i>49,142,428</i>	<i>105,722,689</i>	<i>97,126,242</i>
Opening Accumulated Amortisation	(1,315,886)	(1,109,844)	-	(717,412)	(12,364,966)	(6,069,774)	(43,150,529)	(39,763,006)	(56,831,381)	(47,660,036)
Amortisation for the period	(206,042)	(206,042)	-	-	(6,352,873)	(6,295,192)	(4,201,094)	(3,597,153)	(10,760,010)	(10,098,388)
Write-off of Assets	-	-	-	717,412	-	-	370,000	209,630	370,000	927,042
<i>Closing Accumulated Amortisation</i>	<i>(1,521,928)</i>	<i>(1,315,886)</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>(18,717,839)</i>	<i>(12,364,966)</i>	<i>(46,981,623)</i>	<i>(43,150,529)</i>	<i>(67,221,391)</i>	<i>(56,831,382)</i>
Net Carrying Amount	124,419	330,461	-	-	27,908,032	33,972,501	10,468,848	5,991,899	38,501,297	40,294,860

	30-Jun 2023 Rs	30-Jun 2022 Rs
11. PAYABLES		
Course fees prepaid	15,219,204	3,217,706
Accrued expenditure	21,783,074	18,941,922
Course Fees to be refunded	180,982	109,645
Sundry creditors and prepayments	2,839,557	3,461,360
Total	40,022,817	25,730,633

12. CAR LOANS

These represent car loans granted by the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology to staff of OU. Long-term loans represent the non-current portion of car loans. Breakdown of the loans was as follows:

	30-Jun 2023 Rs	30-Jun 2022 Rs
Total car loans	11,206,078	9,708,354
Less amount falling due within one year	(2,759,045)	(2,975,059)
Amount due after one year	8,447,033	6,733,295

13. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Employee benefits represent sick leaves, vacation leaves and passage benefits accrued by staff and payable either on retirement or on resignation.

	30-Jun 2023 Rs	30-Jun 2022 Rs
Short-term:		
Sick leave benefits	6,000,000	7,000,000
Passage benefits	5,000,000	4,000,000
Vacation leave benefits	2,000,000	4,000,000
Total	13,000,000	15,000,000
Long-term:		
Sick leave benefits	30,400,000	31,024,500
Passage benefits	7,817,194	9,247,221
Vacation leave benefits	28,570,000	28,380,300
Total	66,787,194	68,652,021

14. PENSION OBLIGATION

The actuarial valuation of the Open University of Mauritius Staff Pension Fund managed by SICOM Ltd as at 30 June 2023, is reported as follows:

	30-Jun 2023 Rs	30-Jun 2022 Rs
Amounts recognised in Statement of Financial Position at:		
Defined benefit obligation	695,508,024	658,898,284
Fair value of plan assets	(273,101,775)	(267,107,743)
Liability recognised in the Statement of Financial Position at end of year	<u>422,406,249</u>	<u>391,790,541</u>
Amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance:		
Service cost:		
Current service cost	12,337,657	13,271,681
(Employee contributions)	(3,755,477)	(4,166,259)
Fund Expenses	712,234	686,398
Net Interest expense/(revenue)	19,310,687	14,707,935
P&L Charge	<u>28,605,101</u>	<u>24,499,755</u>
Remeasurement:		
Liability (gain)/ loss	27,229,325	75,618,153
Assets (gain)/ loss	690,541	13,871,624
Net Assets/ Equity (NAE)	27,919,866	89,489,777
Total	<u>56,524,967</u>	<u>113,989,532</u>
Movements in liability recognised in the Statement of Financial Position:		
At start of year	391,790,541	298,904,619
Amount recognised in P&L	28,605,100	24,499,755
(Past service liability contribution)	(13,208,220)	(10,000,000)
(Assets transferred in)	(2,653,263)	
(Contributions paid by employer)	(10,047,775)	(11,103,610)
Amount recognised in NAE	27,919,866	89,489,777
At end of year	<u>422,406,249</u>	<u>391,790,541</u>
The plan is a defined benefit arrangement for the employees and it is a funded plan. The assets of the funded plan are held independently and administered by The State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd.		
Reconciliation of the present value of defined benefit obligation		
Present value of obligation at start of period	658,898,284	569,215,017
Current service cost	12,337,657	13,271,681
Interest cost	32,694,688	27,891,536
(Benefits paid)	(35,651,929)	(27,098,103)
Liability (gain)/loss	27,229,325	75,618,153
Present value of obligation at end of period	<u>695,508,025</u>	<u>658,898,284</u>
Reconciliation of fair value of plan assets		
Fair value of plan assets at start of period	267,107,743	270,310,398
Expected return on plan assets	13,384,001	13,183,601
Employer contributions	10,047,775	11,103,610
Employee contributions	3,755,477	4,166,259
Actuarial reserves in	2,653,263	-
Past service liability contribution	13,208,220	10,000,000
(Benefits paid + other outgo)	(36,364,163)	(27,784,501)
Asset gain/(loss)	(690,541)	(13,871,624)
Fair value of plan assets at end of period	<u>273,101,775</u>	<u>267,107,743</u>

Distribution of plan assets at end of period

<i>Percentage of assets at end of year</i>	30-Jun-23 (%)	30-Jun-22 (%)
Fixed Interest securities and cash	53.9%	58.0%
Loans	2.8%	2.9%
Local equities	14.0%	13.6%
Overseas bonds and equities	28.8%	25.0%
Property	0.5%	0.5%
Total	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

Additional disclosure on assets issued or used by the reporting entity

<i>Percentage of assets at end of year</i>	30-Jun-23 (%)	30-Jun-22 (%)
Assets held in the entity's own financial instruments	0	0
Property occupied by the entity	0	0
Other assets used by the entity	0	0

Components of the amount recognised in NAE

Year	30-Jun 2023	30-Jun 2022
Currency	Rs	Rs
Asset experience gain/(loss) during the period	(690,541)	(13,871,624)
Liability experience gain/(loss) during the period	(27,229,325)	(75,618,153)
	<u>(27,919,866)</u>	<u>(89,489,777)</u>

Year

2023/2024

Expected employer contributions

10,177,514

(Estimate to be reviewed by Open University of Mauritius)

Weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation 13 years
(Calculated as a % change in PV of liabilities for a 1% change in discount rate)

The plan is exposed to actuarial risks such as: investment risk, interest rate risk, longevity risk and salary risk. The risk relating to death in service benefits is re-insured.

The cost of providing the benefits is determined using the Projected Unit Method. The principal assumptions used for the purpose of the actuarial valuation were as follows:

	Year ending 30 June 2023	Year ending 30 June 2022
Discount rate	5.87%	5.10%
Future salary increases	4.50%	3.50%
Future pension increases	3.50%	2.50%
Mortality before retirement	Nil	
Mortality in retirement	PA (90) Tables rated down by 2 years	
Retirement age	65 years	

The discount rate is determined by reference to market yields on bonds.

Significant actuarial assumptions for determination of the defined benefit obligation are discount rate, expected salary increase and mortality. The sensitivity analysis below has been determined based reasonably on possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period.

- If the discount rate would be 100 basis points (one percent) higher (lower), the defined benefit obligation would decrease by Rs 81.9M (increase by Rs 100.5 million) if all other assumptions were held unchanged.
- If the expected salary growth would increase (decrease) by 1%, the defined benefit obligation would increase by Rs 33.8 million (decrease by Rs 30.8 million) if all assumptions were held unchanged.
- If life expectancy would increase (decrease) by one year, the defined benefit obligation would increase by Rs 20.9 million (decrease by Rs 20.9 million) if all assumptions were held unchanged.

Pension Risks

The Pension plan is exposed to actuarial risk such as: investment risk, interest rate risk, longevity risk and salary risk. The risk relating to death in service benefits is re-insured.

The Open University of Mauritius pension fund is a defined benefit fund where the pension benefits are based on final pensionable salary at time of retirement and are payable as long as the pensioner survives. These pensions are also adjusted annually to reflect inflation.

The valuation results are therefore based on assumptions of future investment income, salary increases, pension increases and longevity. The results are very sensitive to the assumptions made and will be true only if the assumptions made are borne out in practice. In practice the actual experience may deviate from the assumptions made and have an impact on the financial position of the Fund. Hence, there is a need for further regular valuations.

Given the uncertainties surrounding salary increases, pension increases and longevity of the pensioners, there are risks as to whether the assets of the fund together with future contributions and investment returns thereon shall be sufficient for the fund to meet these obligations.

The following are the main risks that exist:

(i) Investment Performance

The actual investment return achieved on the assets held could be lower/higher than assumed in the valuation exercise. A decrease in the real returns compared to salary increases will generate future deficit and require increases in rates of contributions and vice versa.

(ii) Salary Increases

The salary increases could be higher or lower than that assumed. In case of high salary increases relative to investment returns, this would decrease the real return, creating future deficit and hence require further annual contributions.

(iii) Pension Increases and Life Expectancy

In the same manner, post-retirement pension increases have a significant impact on the liabilities of the fund. The higher the increases compared to the return on the assets backing the liabilities, the higher the impact on the pension costs. In addition, the risk is magnified by the impact of improving mortality rates among pensioners. The longer the pensioners live, the higher the pension costs.

(iv) Financial Capacity of Sponsor

The sponsor (employer) may face unforeseen financial difficulties and be unable to pay contributions or fund for deficits when required.

(v) Legislation and Regulation

There may be changes in legislation and regulation governing Pension Funds that might adversely affect the Fund, for example the introduction or increase of taxation, government fees and minimum benefits.

15. REVENUE

15.1 Revenue from Exchange Transactions

	30-Jun 2023 Rs	30-Jun 2022 Rs
15.1.1 Breakdown:		
Course fees (See notes below)	156,882,903	155,609,411
Course Fees under Free Tertiary Education Scheme (See notes below)	202,907,435	240,974,950
Other Fees from learners	17,378,944	12,063,650
Sale of services	7,627,038	2,713,484
Sale of goods	21,330	8,250
UTM Collaboration	2,502,537	616,014
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,492,222	2,433,738
Gain on Disposal of Non-Current Asset	-	57,000
Gain on Exchange	-	2,597
Interest Receivable	2,108,744	791,004
Total	390,921,153	415,270,098

15.1.2 Course fees - Scholarship and Discounts

15.1.2.1 OU sponsored its academic and key personnel to read for PhD/DBA in-house courses. The whole tuition fees receivable, amounting to **Rs 1,425,600** were waived under this policy during the year ended 30 June 2023.

15.1.2.2 A twenty percent fee discount was granted to OU's staff who enrolled for the University's courses. The additional fee applicable for payments by instalments was also waived for this category of learners. An amount of **Rs 81,190** was granted as discount under this policy during the year ended 30 June 2023.

15.1.2.3 Scholarships were granted to toppers and the course fees waived for these scholarships amounted to **Rs 764,448** for the year ended 30 June 2023.

15.2 Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions

	30-Jun 2023 Rs	30-Jun 2022 Rs
Breakdown:		
Government Recurrent Grant	10,000,000	15,856,666
Capital Grant	5,172,421	5,489,650
Donation Received	-	3,198,256
Insurance Compensation	-	680,390
CGS Refund	338,499	3,943,333
Interim Allowance Refund	-	712,000
Research Grant	-	200,000
	15,510,920	30,080,294

16. STAFF COSTS

	Note	30-Jun 2023 Rs	30-Jun 2022 Rs
Breakdown of Staff Costs:			
Basic Salary		94,678,264	95,032,288
Salary Compensation		2,479,917	1,580,510
Overtime		7,007,806	6,426,708
Acting and other Allowances		2,164,950	1,389,709
Gratuity		631,370	672,780
Chairman & Board/Committees Fees		3,031,295	1,666,550
End of Year Bonus		7,976,832	7,348,174
Passage Benefits		3,317,200	3,801,447
Pension cost - Defined benefit plan		22,844,127	24,499,755
Contributions - Public Sector Defined Contribution Plan		3,562,666	2,666,172
Contributions - NPF, CSG & FPS		7,435,010	7,448,040
Contributions- National Savings Fund		1,397,187	1,248,218
Extra Assistance		812,756	2,736,312
Sick Leave		4,187,260	9,474,987
Vacation Leave		653,599	4,987,115
Uniforms Allowance		222,605	97,070
Travelling and Transport		11,983,894	10,054,620
Medical Scheme		797,000	853,500
Insurance Compensation		338,499	680,390
Total		175,522,237	182,664,345

17. OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

		30-Jun 2023 Rs	30-Jun 2022 Rs
17.1 Breakdown of Operating Expenses:			
Academic Expenses	17.2	64,303,826	63,030,254
Programme Production		1,938,606	2,347,616
Resource Centre		6,308,293	2,389,011
Marketing & Outreach Activities		1,337,568	2,974,914
Training and Staff Development		581,951	214,875
Research		1,609,837	1,984,783
Insurance		292,475	271,794
Security Services		1,214,127	1,132,668
Postage & Office Stationery		2,006,214	2,098,609
Telephone, Electricity and Water		6,324,153	5,940,648
Bad Debts		-	1,875,481
Institutional Links and Membership fees		801,868	519,461
Legal and Professional Charges		552,600	538,950
Motor Vehicle Running Expenses		1,595,108	1,249,977
Repairs and Maintenance		10,935,916	6,499,102
Hospitality		753,673	338,185
General Expenses		441,445	584,216
Publicity, Advertisement and Recruitment Expenses		216,299	71,041
Loss on disposal of assets		21,892	-
Loss on exchange		89,954	60,004
Mission Expenses		483,070	-
Quality Assurance		48,301	124,135
Collaboration with other Universities		4,170,234	3,751,871
Land Rental & Campus Construction at Cote d'Or: One-off Payment		-	12,000,000
Operating Lease	26	690,000	659,755
Other Expenses		41,815	-
Total		106,759,225	110,657,350
17.2 Included in Operating Expenses are:			
Cost of inventories expensed		8,710,604	7,189,940

17.2 Breakdown of Academic Expenses:

Induction	19,390	6,325
Face/Face Sessions	18,297,287	19,335,120
Assignment Marking	9,450,461	10,444,069
Project Supervision/Marking	6,620,969	5,945,500
Refund Research Materials	43,042	16,890
Professional Certification	12,217	-
Exams	24,786,827	21,321,929
Group Personal Accident (Student & Tutors)	100,199	100,249
AAD General Materials	261,660	342,431
AAD General Others	351,023	1,208,808
Student Activities	81,652	-
Educational Software	1,347,747	1,561,447
Main Supervisor	1,147,055	1,868,430
Second Supervisor	201,822	116,986
Tablet for learners	2,289	762,071
Conferences	58,111	-
Graduation Ceremony	1,522,075	-
	64,303,826	63,030,254

18. BUDGET

18.1 Budget Reconciliation

The budget and the accounting bases differ. The Financial Statements are prepared on the accrual basis using a classification based on the nature of expenses in the Statement of Financial Performance.

A reconciliation of the actual amounts on a comparable basis as presented in the Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts with the actual amounts in the Statement of Financial Performance is presented below.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Year Ended
30 June 2023
Rs

Revenue

Actual Revenue as per Statement of Comparison of Budgets and Actual Amounts	469,205,642
Course fees FTES as at 30 June 2022	(132,257,700)
Course fees FTES at 30 June 2023	78,850,925
Bank interest receivable as at 30 June 2023	2,108,744
Movement in Operating Revenue	(11,475,538)
Total Revenue as per Statement of Financial Performance	406,432,073

Expenses

Actual Expenditure as per Statement of Comparison of Budgets and Actual Amounts	590,734,430
Commitment for the year and other adjustments	31,970,482
Investment: Funds reserved for construction of Campus at Cote d'Or	(294,504,000)
Commitment of last year	(34,180,464)
Inventories as at 01 July 2022	3,270,939
Inventories as at 30 June 2023	(3,160,569)
Depreciation & Amortisation	22,402,446
Increase in Passage Benefit	3,317,200
Increase in Sick Leave	1,380,093
Increase in Vacation Leave	446,224
Increase in Pension	2,695,842
Movement in Pension Obligation	(700,303)

Other Prepayments	(6,350,869)
Additions to PPE and Intangible assets	(3,883,812)
Programme Development	(8,753,731)
Expenditure as per Statement of Financial Performance	<u>304,683,908</u>

18.2 Explanations on Difference between the Original and Final Budgets

The budget for Financial Year 2022/23 was approved by OU Board on 31 March 2022. The Revised Budget for the Financial Year 2022/23 was approved by OU Board on 03 August 2023 taking into consideration the actual results for the six months ended 31 December 2022 and re-allocations carried out during the Financial Year 2022/23.

The most significant differences are as follows:

- 18.2.1 Transfer from savings account to finance Capital Budget of OU** - Transfer was made from savings account to fund the acquisition of SIMS software and other equipment, following the approval of OU Board.
- 18.2.2 Course Fees** - Provision reviewed based on actual enrolment trends.
- 18.2.3 Other Income** - Provision reviewed following signature of new contract for services with local institutions.
- 18.2.4 Basic Salary** - Provision for Basic Salary reviewed downwards following retirement and departure of staff on 'Leave Without Pay'.
- 18.2.5 Overtime** - Based on actual expenditure for the previous six months and increase in the volume of activities following increase in learners, provision was reviewed upwards.
- 18.2.6 Chairperson/Board fees** - Based on the circular issued by the Ministry of Public Service, the provision for fees payable to the Chairperson and members of Board and committees was reviewed upwards.
- 18.2.7 Repairs & Maintenance: Building & Equipment** - Provision was reviewed following tender exercise for painting works.
- 18.2.8 Resource Centre (Library)** - Following decision of HEC & Parent Ministry for not sponsoring the cost of subscription to Elsevier online study materials, OU had to share the cost of subscription with other TEIs on a 'pro-rata' basis. Provision was made for next three years following approval of OU Board.
- 18.2.9 Part-Time Tutors, Marking of Assignment & other Academic Expenses** - Provision was revised upwards as OU had a backlog of payments to clear and there was an increase in payments in the last six-month period ended 31 December 2022.
- 18.2.10 Tablet for Learners** - Tender proceedings were at the level of Central Procurement Board and there was delay.
- 18.2.11 Special Item** - All savings were transferred to the Special Fund reserved for the construction of the new campus, following financial clearance obtained from MOFPED.

18.3 Explanations on Difference between the Final Budget and Actual Amounts

- 18.3.1 Course Fees** - Funds were not transferred from HEC as at 30 June 2023 in respect of fees claimed under FTES for the financial year 2022/23.
- 18.3.2 Staff Costs** - Actual costs of Salary and Travelling Allowances were lower than budgeted due to non-filling of posts and following departure of staff on retirement and 'Leave Without Pay'.
- 18.3.3 Academic Expenses** - Savings occurred as backlog of payments for Exams and other payments were not cleared during the financial year, though payments effected during the period July to September 2023 were accrued in the accounts.

19. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING DATE

OU proceeded with a 'sale' exercise for scrap metal shelves which had a resale value. The gain from the disposal has been accrued in the Accounts as an 'Adjusting Event'.

20. EMPLOYEE DISCLOSURE

As at 30 June 2023, OU had 226 employees on permanent and pensionable establishment, and 14 on Contract basis.

21. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The Management of OU is carried out by key personnel including the Director-General, Heads of Division and Section and other senior staff who are responsible for managing the activities of the University. The aggregate remuneration of **Rs 39,407,822** was provided to key management personnel for the reporting period as follows:

	30-Jun 2023 Rs	30-Jun 2022 Rs
Director-General	3,955,938	3,434,490
Heads of Division/Section	11,898,851	11,422,901
Other senior staff	23,553,033	25,450,722
Total	39,407,822	40,308,113

22. OTHER REMUNERATION AND COMPENSATION TO KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

During the reporting period, fees totalling **Rs 814,300** for tutoring services were paid to key personnel as follows:

	30-Jun 2023 Rs	30-Jun 2022 Rs
Senior Management staff	814,300	622,000

Figures for other remuneration are included in **Note 21**.

23. BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

	30-Jun 2023 Rs	30-Jun 2022 Rs
Chairperson's fees	626,560	400,700
Other Board Directors' fees	785,880	291,590
Total	1,412,440	692,290

24. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

For the purpose of these Financial Statements, parties which are considered to be related to OU are other Government Ministries, Public Bodies and Departments, mostly represented on the OU Board, if they have the ability, directly or indirectly to control the Open University or exercise significant influence over the financial and operating decision making or vice versa. Related party transactions were generally carried out at commercial terms and conditions.

OU produced audio-visual and printed materials and services at concessionary terms to government ministries and departments. During the financial year 2022/2023, no amount was waived on sale of goods and services in accordance with the prevailing pricing policy.

Eligible employees are granted duty free facilities and/or loans for the purchase of a car as prescribed in the Pay Research Bureau Report. The details, amounts granted and balances under these loans are given at notes 4.6.4 and 7. There are no other loans to key management personnel or to other categories of staff.

During the financial year 2022/2023, one officer of OU was seconded to the Mauritius National Assembly to assist in the implementation and monitoring of the 'Live Broadcasting of the proceeding of the House Project'. As per practice in the civil service, they were remunerated by OU during the period of secondment.

25. PENDING LITIGATIONS

As at 30 June 2023, OU is involved in one case filed at the District Court and Intermediate Court.

As at date, there is no indication on the outcome of the cases and hence no provision has been made in the accounts.

26. OPERATING LEASE

The future minimum lease payments under the operating lease agreement for the construction of a University Campus at Côte d'Or are as follows:

	30-Jun 2023 Rs	30-Jun 2022 Rs
Total Rental of Land	30,884,247	30,884,247
Total Rental Paid	(690,000)	-
Less amount falling due within one year	(690,000)	(690,000)
Amount due after one year	29,504,247	30,194,247

27. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

Reversal of Provision for Debtors - Course Fees (Note 1)	3,780,771	-
Reversal of Debtors - Other Institutions (Note 2)	721,794	-
Correction of Entries	616,275	2,123,587
	5,118,840	2,123,587

Note 1: OU proceeded with an impairment exercise for the Debtors of course fees for the Financial Year 2014. Following the impairment exercise, provision for debtors for the Financial Year 2014 for an amount of Rs 3,780,771 is being reversed as at 30 June 2023.

Note 2: OU proceeded with an impairment exercise for outstanding debts of institutions for delivery of services for the period before the financial year 2022/2023. Following the impairment exercise, provision for debtors for ten institutions amounting to Rs 721,794 is being reversed as at 30 June 2023.

ANNEXES

ANNUAL REPORT

———— 2022 - 2023 ————

OPEN UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS ACT NO.2 OF 2010

5. Functions of Open University

The Open University shall have such functions as are necessary to attain its objects most effectively and shall, in particular –

- (a) act as the national focal point for open and distance learning;
- (b) set standards for the provision of open and distance learning;
- (c) provide education and training through a diversity of means in such branches of knowledge, vocations and professions as the Open University may determine from time to time;
- (d) enter into affiliation with other institutions, local and overseas, which would assist in attaining any of the objects of the Open University;
- (e) co-operate with any local or overseas institution which has objects which are wholly or partly similar to its own;
- (f) provide consultancy and professional services, especially in open and distance learning;
- (g) plan and prescribe courses of study for degrees, diplomas or certificates through open and distance learning, with the collaboration of local and overseas providers of education and training;
- (h) hold examinations and grant degrees, including honorary degrees, diplomas, certificates or other academic awards, acting on its own or jointly with any other education and training institution;
- (i) accept examinations and periods of study of students at other universities or places of learning as equivalent to appropriate examinations and periods of study in the Open University and withdraw such acceptance at any time;
- (j) institute professorships, lectureships, tutorships and other academic positions necessary for imparting instruction, for preparing educational material or for conducting other academic activities, including supervision, designing and delivery of courses and evaluation of the work done by learners and appoint persons to such positions;
- (k) institute and award fellowships, scholarships, prizes and such other awards for recognition of merit as it thinks fit;
- (l) set up and maintain Regional Centres within this region of the world for the purpose of coordinating and supervising the work of regional study centres in the region and for performing such other functions as may be conferred on them by the Academic Council;
- (m) set up, maintain and recognise study centres, telecentres and practice centres for the purpose of advising, counselling, tutoring, obtaining practical experience or rendering any other assistance required by learners;
- (n) provide for the preparation, reception and distribution of instructional materials through differentiated media, including terrestrial, satellite, video, radio, print, web or compact disc media and others;
- (o) make provision for research and development in educational technology, instructional design, learner support and related matters;

- (p) provide, control and maintain discipline among the learners and academic and general staff and lay down the conditions of service of such staff, including their codes of conduct;
- (q) determine standards and specify conditions for the admission of learners to programmes of study at the Open University, which may include recognition of prior learning, experience, examination, evaluation and any other method of testing;
- (r) link up with Governmental and inter-governmental institutions and the private sector to support an enabling environment for the provision of education and training at certificate, diploma, graduate, post-graduate and research levels;
- (s) create partnerships with key institutions worldwide to deliver programmes of open and distance learning.

6. Powers of Open University

The Open University shall have such powers as are necessary to attain its objects and discharge its functions most effectively and may, in particular –

- (a) receive donations and gifts, contract loans, and lease, acquire, hold, maintain and dispose of any property, movable or immovable, including trust and Government property;
- (b) demand and receive such fees and charges as may be charged for courses of study, research and practical training and for admission to the examinations for degrees, diplomas and other academic qualifications;
- (c) co-operate with other universities and institutions of higher learning, professional bodies and organisations, both locally and from overseas, for such purposes as it considers necessary, including credit transfers and the award of joint degrees;
- (d) subject to the Public Procurement Act, enter into such contract or other arrangement as may be necessary;
- (e) subject to any other enactment, establish such broadcasting facility as may be required to enable the Open University to perform its functions;
- (f) appoint, on contract or otherwise, visiting professors, consultants, fellows, scholars, artists, course writers and other persons from within and outside Mauritius who may contribute to the advancement of the objects of the Open University;
- (g) do such other act as may be necessary for attaining any of its objects and carrying out its functions.

Open University
of Mauritius



CODE OF ETHICS

VISION OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

To be among the best open universities in the world.

MISSION OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Use technology and flexible mode of teaching to serve society, transform lives and make high quality education, lifelong learning, and training accessible to everyone while promoting excellence in research.

OUR VALUES

The Values of the Open University are:

- Openness, Diversity and Inclusion
- Excellence
- Engagement and
- Integrity

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CODE OF ETHICS

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12. Equal Opportunity
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16. Ethics Committee
17. Appendix - Employee Commitment Form

1. INTRODUCTION

This Code of Ethics is a written set of guidelines issued by the Open University, to its employees and stakeholders to help them conduct their actions in accordance with its primary values and ethical standards.

The Open University of Mauritius is committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct in all its activities. OU community has the responsibility to act ethically and in accordance with this Code of Ethics.

Since its establishment in July 2012, OU has recognised and acted upon the importance of ethical values that have been embedded in the University regulations.

The Open University Act encompasses well-established ethical policies and procedures relating to our core activities of delivery and assessment of open distance learning courses (Academic), Research, Fundraising and Finance.

2. THE CODE OF ETHICS STRUCTURE

The code describes the ethical conduct grounded in OU's core activities.

The OU Board has an overarching responsibility to keep this code under review. However, for each of the core areas, detailed ethical matters and processes, including the detailed consideration of ethical cases, rest with the University's Ethics Committee.

3. SCOPE

The Code outlines the standards of behaviour expected of all members of the University Staff. It is intended to help and guide staff of OU to conform to the highest professional standards and work ethics. The Code should be read in conjunction with OU Act, policies and procedures. It requires compliance by all members of OU Staff: These include the following categories:

Academic and Non-academic staff members who are employed by OU under regular or other employment contracts. It excludes the Code of Conduct of Learners.

This Code sets the standard of professional conduct expected from each member of staff.

4. AIM

Code of Ethics are fundamental to the OU values. The primary purpose of the Code of Ethics is to maintain a professional and safe environment in which the OU community can work and learn to promote a culture of fair and ethical behaviour while ensuring that the University meets its obligations.

5. STANDARDS OF INTEGRITY

OU staff members must maintain high standards of integrity by upholding fundamental values that include respect for the rights, differences and dignity of others, honesty and integrity in all dealings, accountability for actions and conduct in the workplace and compliance with the University regulations.

6. PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR

All staff must:

- 6.1 maintain and develop knowledge and understanding of their area of expertise or professional field;
- 6.2 exercise their best professional and ethical judgement as well as carry out their duties and functions with integrity and objectivity;
- 6.3 act diligently, ethically and conscientiously;
- 6.4 act fairly and reasonably, and treat students, staff, visitors of the University as well as members of the public with respect, impartiality, courtesy and sensitivity;
- 6.5 avoid conflicts of interest;

- 6.6 maintain a co-operative and collaborative approach to working relationships; and
- 6.7 comply with existing rules and regulations, policies of the University and professional codes of conduct and practice, including in relation to: – the conduct of research; confidentiality and privacy of information; equal opportunity; health and safety policies and practices; efficient and effective use of University resources including information communication and technology resources; and protection of the University's interests in intellectual property arising from its teaching and research;
- 6.8 ensure that their personal appearance, dress and presentation are clean, tidy and appropriate for their work role;
- 6.9 not consume alcoholic drinks and smoke on Open University premises;
- 6.10 not accept gifts, and
- 6.11 never disclose any information related to the University without the consent of the Director-General.

7. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University strives to maintain the highest standards in all its teaching and research. Staff members must not conduct themselves in ways that may undermine the academic standards of its awards or the integrity and dissemination of its investigations. Examples of inappropriate conduct and breaches of Academic Integrity include but are not limited to the following:

- 7.1 granting undue favours to students;
- 7.2 receiving undue favours from students in exchange of academic favours;
- 7.3 disclosing personal information related to staff or students without their consent;
- 7.4 violation of University policies related to research and academic honesty including those guiding the conduct of tutorials, examinations and assessment and
- 7.5 engaging in plagiarism evidenced in published or unpublished research manuscripts.

8. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

In the performance of their official duties, all employees of OU have access to confidential information or other confidential documents. They shall ensure that confidential information to which they may have access are not disclosed. Employees must not disclose any information gained by them as a result of their employment to any unauthorised person or to the public, orally or in writing, without the prior approval, in writing, of the Director-General. An employee authorised to report an information shall ensure that it is being done without causing prejudice to the organisation.

No officer shall have access to records relating to him, or in any circumstances, take copies of either minutes or correspondence contained in such records or else they may be liable to disciplinary action. They shall not, in any case whatsoever, misuse such information for their private interests.

OU employees shall be bound by, and shall continue to observe their duty of confidentiality after they leave the service.

OU employees are not allowed to keep photocopies of any document and file of OU with them at office or at their residence without any prior approval in writing of the Director-General.

Members of staff are not allowed to talk about OU to the press or in any gathering including workshops, conferences and congress without the approval in writing of the Director-General.

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Conflict of Interest is defined as “A situation in which an individual’s financial, professional or other personal considerations may directly or indirectly affect, or have the appearance of affecting, his or her professional judgement in exercising any official duty or responsibility.”

Employees of the University and other community members shall conduct themselves in an honest and fair manner and shall not make any personal use or gain from University property or knowledge gained from their position.

Whenever necessary, they should declare their interest in writing to the Director-General.

10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

All staff must comply with the intellectual property regulations as specified in the OU General Rules.

11. USE OF UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

11.1 All OU resources must be utilised for business purposes only and may not be used for personal gain or use. These include all office equipment, telephone and resources at the disposal of staff.

11.2 OU members have an obligation to act in the best interest and not let outside activities or interests interfere with their duties.

12. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The Open University recognises that its employees are its most valuable resources and it shall therefore ensure that all its employees are treated fairly, with respect, dignity and equity. At the Open University, we strive to ensure that equal opportunity is a reality and that our faculty, staff, and students can work and study in an environment free of unlawful harassment and discrimination.

The University discourages discrimination and harassment and provides equal opportunities for all its members, irrespective of their race, religion, gender, and any other characteristic protected by law.

13. WORKPLACE SAFETY

The Open University has an obligation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2006 to provide a safe and healthy working environment. OU Officers have an obligation to take steps to protect their own health and safety and that of their colleagues, students and visitors.

OU Employees must observe risk management, health, safety, security and personal protective equipment procedures and requirements. They must identify and report hazards promptly and supervisors must ensure risks are eliminated or controlled in line with Health and Safety policy of Open University.

14. STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

OU employees should not, without written approval of the Director-General, provide information to the news media or social media, publish any information, or make public statements relating to the policies, activities, processes and documents of the Open University.

15. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE

All Members of the OU Staff are accountable for their actions, and as members of the University community, are collectively responsible for upholding professional standards of behaviour. They must conduct their duties in compliance with the University Rules & Regulations and Policies.

16. ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Ethics Committee deals with all reports, complaints, problems and matters arising from this Code of Ethics within the Open University of Mauritius. The Ethics Committee will ensure that this Code is kept updated and provide advice on all matters pertaining to the Code. The exact role, powers and members of the Ethics Committee will be defined by the University Board.

This Code of Ethics and the matter contained herein are neither a contract of employment nor a guarantee of continuing policy. This Code may be amended or supplemented from time to time, with or without notice, by the Ethics Committee.

CODE OF ETHICS FOR OU STAFF

Appendix

EMPLOYEES COMMITMENT FORM

I,....., holding the post ofat the Open University of Mauritius, confirm having read and understood the Code of Ethics of the Open University of Mauritius. I hereby undertake to commit to uphold the values of personal integrity and fairness while complying to all the provisions stated in this Code. I will maintain the highest ethical standards in all my actions.

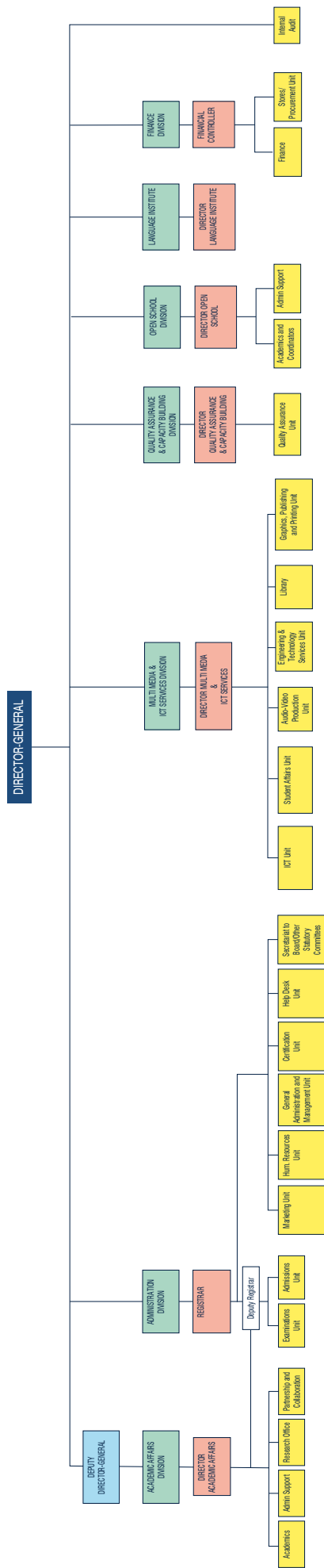
.....

Date

.....

Signature

ORGANIGRAM OF OU AS AT 30 JUNE 2023



Note: 1. This organigram will evolve in line with future development of OU.
 2. The Examinations Unit and Admissions Unit work closely with Academic Affairs Division through the Deputy Registrar.