

Ghana Communication Technology University Bill, 2019

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SCHEDULE

Oath of Office

A
BILL

ENTITLED

**GHANA COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY
ACT, 2019**

AN ACT to establish the Ghana Communication Technology University
as a Public Tertiary Institution and to provide for related matters.

PASSED by Parliament and assented to by the President:

Ghana Communication Technology University

Establishment of the Ghana Communication Technology University

1. (1) There is established by this Act, a body corporate with perpetual succession to be known as the Ghana Communication Technology University, referred to in this Act as “the University”.

(2) The University may, for the performance of its functions, acquire and hold movable and immovable property, dispose of property and enter into a contract or other transaction that relates to the aims of the University.

(3) The University may generate revenue and invest the revenue for the promotion of excellence in teaching, research and community service.

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(4) Where there is a hindrance to the acquisition of property, the property may be acquired for the University under the State Lands Act, 1962 (Act 125) and the costs shall be borne by the University.

Status of the University

2. (1) The University shall have financial autonomy subject to this Act.

(2) In order to promote equitable access, the University shall charge reasonable fees as determined by the Council in consultation with the Minister.

Aims of the University

3. The aims of the University are to provide a viable world class centre for higher education in technology education and to undertake research in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) promote education, training and capacity building in various academic disciplines;
- (b) provide global consultancy services to both the private sector and the public sector;
- (c) promote basic and applied research; and
- (d) create an entrepreneurial environment that will support innovation and product incubation development while fostering university industry linkages.

Campuses of the University

4. (1) The University shall establish the main campus of the University at Tesano, Accra.

(2) The University shall establish other campuses in Koforidua, Ho, Takoradi, Kumasi and any other place as the Council may determine.

Award of degrees

5. (1) The University shall have the power to award its own degrees including honorary degrees, diplomas and certificates.

(2) The University may withdraw a degree, diploma or certificate that the University has awarded, if the University has evidence that proves that

- (a) the degree, diploma or certificate was obtained through fraud or academic malpractice; or
- (b) the process of acquiring the degree, diploma or certificate was tainted by an act that in the opinion of the University undermines the integrity of the award.

Administration

The University Council

6. (1) The governing body of the University is a Council consisting of

- (a) a chairperson nominated by the President;
- (b) the Vice-Chancellor of the University;
- (c) one representative of the Ministry of Education not below the rank of a Director;
- (d) two senior members of the University elected by the Convocation representing the professorial and non-professorial staff;
- (e) one representative of the Information Communication Technology industry;
- (f) one representative of the Conference of Heads of Assisted Secondary Schools nominated by the Conference of Heads of Assisted Secondary Schools;
- (g) three persons nominated by the President, at least one of whom is a woman; and
- (h) one representative of the students, nominated by the Students Representative Council.

(2) The chairperson and other members of the Council shall be appointed by the President in accordance with article 70 of the Constitution.

(3) The President in making the nominations, under paragraphs (a) and (g) of subsection (1), shall have regard to the academic qualifications, leadership qualities, gender, expertise in finance, management, knowledge and relevant experience in matters relevant to academic and public administration and management.

Functions of the Council

7. The Council shall

- (a) ensure the implementation of the aims of the University;
- (b) approve plans and programmes of the University;
- (c) prescribe the terms and conditions for the admission of a person selected for any course of study and training organised by the University;

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- (d) institute awards and scholarship schemes in furtherance of the aims of the University;
- (e) approve the appointments and promotions of Deans, Directors and Heads of Departments on the recommendations of the Appointments and Promotions Committee of the Academic Board or as may be prescribed in the Statutes of the University;
- (f) make professorial level appointments for the University on the recommendation of the Appointments and Promotions Committee of the Academic Board or as may be prescribed in the Statutes of the University;
- (g) ensure the timely audit of the finances of the University and proper use of funds;
- (h) oversee the internal organisation of the University including the establishment, variation and supervision of academic divisions, departments and faculties;
- (i) publish annual reports relating to the activities of the University;
- (j) approve annual estimates of the income and statement of accounts of the University; and
- (k) perform any other function that is incidental to the achievement of the aims of the University.

Establishment of committees

8. (1) For the purpose of achieving the aims of the University, the Council may establish standing or ad-hoc committees, made up of members or non- members of the Council and assign them functions that the Council considers appropriate.

(2) A committee comprised entirely of non-members of the Council shall be advisory.

Tenure of office of members of the Council

9. (1) A member of the Council other than the Vice-Chancellor and an ex-officio member shall hold office for a period of four years and is eligible for re-appointment for another term only.

(2) A member shall not represent more than one person or institution specified under section 6.

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(3) Where a member of the Council is absent from three consecutive meetings without reasonable cause, the office of that member shall become vacant.

(4) A member of the Council, other than the Vice-Chancellor and an ex-officio member, may resign from office in writing addressed to the President through the Minister.

(5) The President may revoke the appointment of a member for inability to perform the functions of that member, for stated misconduct or for any other just cause.

(6) Where the office of a member becomes vacant by reason of death, resignation or the absence of the member from three consecutive meetings without reasonable cause, another person nominated by the relevant body shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the office.

(7) The chairperson of the Council shall, through the Minister, notify the President of any vacancy that occurs in the membership of the Council within one month of the occurrence of the vacancy.

Meetings of the Council

10. (1) The Council shall meet at least three times in each academic year for the despatch of the business at the time and in the place determined by the chairperson.

(2) The chairperson of the Council shall, upon the request of not less than one-third of the members, convene a special meeting of the Council.

(3) The quorum at a meeting of the Council is six members.

(4) The chairperson shall preside at each meeting of the Council and in the absence of the chairperson, a member of the Council elected by members present from among their number shall preside.

(5) Matters before the Council shall be decided by a simple majority of the members present and voting and in the event of an equality of votes, the person presiding shall have a casting vote.

(6) The Council may co-opt a person to attend and participate in any of its meetings but a co-opted person is not entitled to vote at a meeting.

(7) The proceedings of the Council are not invalidated by reason of a vacancy among the members or by a defect in the appointment or qualification of a member.

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(8) Unless otherwise provided, the Council shall determine and regulate the procedure for its meetings.

Disclosure of interest

11. (1) A member of the Council who has an interest in a matter for consideration shall

- (a) disclose the nature of the interest and the disclosure shall form part of the record of the consideration of the matter; and
- (b) shall not participate in the deliberations of the Council in respect of that matter.

(2) A member ceases to be a member of the Council if that member has an interest in a matter before the Council and

- (a) fails to disclose that interest; or
- (b) participates in the deliberations on the matter.

Allowances

12. Members of the Council and members of a committee of the Council shall be paid allowances approved by the Minister in consultation with the Minister responsible for Finance.

General powers of the Council

13. (1) The Council may provide for any act or thing in relation to the University which the Council considers necessary or expedient.

(2) The conferment of particular powers on the Council by other provisions of this Act shall not be taken to limit the generality of this section.

Principal Officers of the University

14. (1) The Principal Officers of the University are

- (a) the Chancellor;
- (b) the chairperson of the Council; and
- (c) the Vice-Chancellor.

(2) Before assuming office, the Principal Officers of the University shall take and subscribe to the Oath of Office as specified in the Schedule.

Chancellor

15. (1) The University shall have a Chancellor who is appointed by the Council and takes precedence over the other officers of the University.

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(2) The criteria and modalities for appointment of the Chancellor shall be prescribed by the Statutes.

(3) The Chancellor shall hold office for a term of five years and is eligible for re-appointment for another term only but not beyond the statutory retirement age.

(4) The Chancellor shall preside at Congregation, meetings and ceremonies of the University at which the Chancellor is present.

(5) The Chancellor shall be served with the summons, minutes and other documents related to meetings of the Council and may attend the meetings.

(6) The Chancellor shall confer on qualified persons, degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded by the University in accordance with this Act and procedures prescribed by Statutes.

(7) The Chancellor may delegate a function under subsection (6) by directives in writing to the Council.

Vacancy in the Office of the Chancellor

16. (1) The Office of the Chancellor shall become vacant on

- (a) resignation;
- (b) death;
- (c) removal from office; or
- (d) the expiry of the term of office.

(2) The grounds and procedures for the removal of the Chancellor from office shall be contained in the Statutes.

(3) Without limiting the other roles of the Chancellor, where the integrity and welfare of the University are threatened by any matter, the Chancellor may, in consultation with the Council, intervene.

Vice-Chancellor of the University

17. (1) The University shall have a Vice-Chancellor who is appointed by the Council.

(2) The Vice-Chancellor shall hold office on the terms and conditions specified in the letter of appointment.

(3) The Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a term of four years and is eligible for re-appointment for another term only.

(4) The Vice-Chancellor is the academic and administrative head and chief disciplinary officer of the University.

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(5) The Vice-Chancellor is responsible to the Council for maintaining order and ensuring the efficient administration of the University.

(6) The Vice-Chancellor shall perform such other functions as may be prescribed by the Council in the Statutes of the University.

Vacancy in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

18. (1) The Office of the Vice-Chancellor shall become vacant on

- (a) resignation;
- (b) death; or
- (c) removal from office.

(2) The grounds and procedures for the removal of the Vice-Chancellor from office shall be contained in the Statutes.

Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University

19. (1) The Council shall appoint at least one Pro Vice-Chancellor for the University in accordance with the Statutes.

(2) A Pro Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a term of five years and is eligible for re-appointment for another term only but not beyond the statutory retirement age.

(3) The Pro Vice-Chancellor shall attend a meeting of the Council but shall not vote at the meeting.

(4) A Pro Vice-Chancellor shall be assigned duties that the Council or the Vice-Chancellor shall determine.

(5) The Council may appoint an additional Pro-Vice Chancellor to perform other functions as determined by the Council.

(6) The Pro Vice-Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs shall perform the functions of the Vice-Chancellor in the absence of the Vice-Chancellor.

Registrar of the University

20. (1) The Council shall appoint a Registrar for the University.

(2) The Registrar shall hold office on the terms and conditions specified in the letter of appointment in accordance with the Statutes.

(3) The Registrar is responsible to the Vice-Chancellor for the day-to-day administration of the affairs of the University.

(4) The Registrar is the Secretary to the

- (a) Council;
- (b) Academic Board; and
- (c) other boards and committees that may be set up by Statutes.

- (5) The Registrar shall
- (a) arrange the business of the Council;
 - (b) attend the meetings of the Council;
 - (c) record and keep the minutes of the meetings of the Council;
 - and
 - (d) perform any other functions that the Council or the Vice-Chancellor may direct.

Director of Finance

21. (1) The University shall appoint a Director of Finance for the University.

(2) The Director of Finance shall perform functions as prescribed in the Statutes.

(3) The Director of Finance is responsible to the Vice-Chancellor in the performance of the functions of the Director of Finance.

Appointment of academic, administrative and other staff

22. (1) The Council may appoint academic, administrative and other staff as are necessary for the effective performance of the functions of the University.

(2) The terms and conditions of service of persons appointed under subsection (1) shall be determined by the Council.

(3) The Council may delegate to the Vice-Chancellor, its power of appointment under subsection (1).

Remuneration and pension of staff of the University

23. (1) Subject to this Act, the Council shall determine the remuneration of academic, administrative and other staff of the University.

(2) The National Pensions Act, 2008 (Act 766) shall apply to members of staff and employees of the University.

Academic Board

24. There is established by this Act, an Academic Board of the University which is answerable to the Council.

Composition of the Academic Board

- 25.** (1) The Academic Board consists of
- (a) the Vice-Chancellor who is the Chairperson;
 - (b) the Pro Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs;

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- (c) the Dean or a representative of each faculty;
- (d) the full Professors of the University;
- (e) the Registrar of the University or a representative of the Registrar; and
- (f) the Librarian of the University.

(2) The Academic Board may establish standing and ad-hoc committees for the purpose of carrying out its functions under this Act and as may be determined by the Statutes enacted by the Council except that a Committee comprised entirely of non-members shall be advisory only.

(3) A person who is an *ex-officio* member of the Academic Board may be represented at a meeting by a person designated by that member.

Functions of the Academic Board

26. The Board shall, subject to the powers of the Council,

- (a) determine the criteria for the admission of students into University;
- (b) decide matters that relate to the award of bursaries and scholarships at the University;
- (c) determine
 - (i) the content of curricula for the University;
 - (ii) the academic standards, validations and review of courses;
 - (iii) the policy and procedure for the award of qualifications; and
 - (iv) the policy and procedure for the assessment and examination of students and for the discipline of students.
- (d) regulate and assess the academic work of the University in the areas of teaching and research;
- (e) consider the resources required to support the academic activities of the University;
- (f) prepare, on its initiative, or at the request of the Council, reports and recommendations on any matter affecting the University; and
- (g) perform any other functions specified in the Statutes of the University.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Board shall advise the Council generally and in particular on academic matters of the University subject to the powers of the Council.

Internal organisation of the University

27. (1) Subject to this Act, the Council may make arrangements as it considers appropriate for the internal organisation of the University, including the establishment, supervision or variation of

- (a) halls of residence, academic faculties, administrative divisions, Departments, independent profit centres and other bodies;
- (b) lectureships, teaching and research; and
- (c) academic and administrative posts and functions.

(2) The Council shall exercise the powers referred to in subsection (1), only after the consultation with the Academic Board in so far as they relate to matters which in the opinion of the Council are academic matters.

Student governance

28. (1) The University shall have a Students' Representative Council.

(2) The Students' Representative Council is responsible for representing students duly admitted and registered to study at the University.

(3) The constitution and other governing instruments of the Students' Representative Council shall

- (a) be drawn up by the students subject to the approval of the Academic Board; and
- (b) conform to this Act, the Statutes of the University and any other rules, regulations, directives and edicts duly issued by the University.

(4) The Statutes of the University may grant the Students' Representative Council representation on appropriate bodies and organs of the University.

Statutes of the University

29. The Council shall ensure the implementation of this Act by Statutes which shall in particular,

- (a) regulate the

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- (i) appointment;
 - (ii) conditions of service;
 - (iii) termination of appointment; and
 - (iv) retirement benefits;
- of the employees of the University;
- (b) determine the persons who form the academic staff of the University;
 - (c) determine the persons who are authorised to enter into transactions, sign contracts, cheques and other documents and negotiate instruments on behalf of the University and to regulate the procedure in relation to transactions entered into by the University;
 - (d) determine the academic calendar of the University;
 - (e) ensure that the seal of the University is kept under proper custody and is used only on the authority of the Council;
 - (f) determine the rules and procedures relating to discipline of students and staff of the University;
 - (g) determine procedures for the assessment and award of degrees, diplomas and certificates of the University;
 - (h) determine the award of scholarships and bursaries; and
 - (i) provide for any matter which is required by this Act to be prescribed by Statute.

Procedures for enacting Statutes

30. (1) For the purpose of enacting a Statute, a draft of the Statute shall be developed by Convocation and shall be circulated to the members of the Council at least fourteen days before the meeting at which it is to be considered.

(2) After consideration at the meeting, the draft may be provisionally approved either with or without amendment.

(3) Written notice on amendments shall be circulated to members at least three days before the meeting.

(4) The Statute as provisionally approved shall be circulated to the members of the Council and where in the opinion of the Council the Statute affects academic matters, the Statute shall be circulated to the members of the Academic Board, at least seven days before the meeting at which the Statute is to be confirmed.

(5) A provisional Statute shall be confirmed without amendment at a meeting of the Council held not less than one month or not more than six months after the meeting at which it was provisionally approved.

Convocation

31. (1) The University shall have a Convocation.
(2) The membership, functions and powers of the Convocation shall be prescribed by the Statutes of the University.

Congregation

32. (1) The University may hold a Congregation at the times determined by the Council for the purpose of conferring degrees and awarding diplomas and certificates.
(2) A Congregation of the University shall consist of the Council, the Board, members of the Convocation, graduates of the University and any other person prescribed by the Statutes.

Financial Matters

Funds of the University

33. (1) The Funds of the University include
- (a) moneys approved by Parliament;
 - (b) moneys that accrue to the University in the performance of its functions consisting of
 - (i) fees paid by students registered by the University;
 - (ii) fees, charges and dues in respect of services rendered by or through the University;
 - (iii) proceeds from the sale of publications of the University;
 - (iv) grants, subscriptions, rents and royalties;
 - (c) returns on investments;
 - (d) donations and gifts; and
 - (e) moneys from any other source approved by the Council.
- (2) Any sum of money received by or on behalf of the University shall be paid into a bank account of the University opened by or on the authority of the Council.
- (3) The Council may invest the funds of the University that are not required for immediate use as the Council considers appropriate.
- (4) The University may receive support from the Government for its capital expenditure.

Management of the finances of the University

34. (1) The Council shall control and manage the finances of the University and determine matters on the financial administration of the University.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), where matters concerning the financial administration of the University affects its education policy, the Council shall, before determining the matter, consult the Board and consider any recommendations or report of the Board.

Internal Audit Unit

35. (1) The University shall have an Internal Audit Unit in accordance with section 83 of the Public Financial Management Act, 2016 (Act 921).

(2) The Internal Audit Unit shall be headed by an Internal Auditor who shall be appointed in accordance with the Internal Audit Agency Act, 2003 (Act 658).

(3) The Internal Auditor is responsible for the internal audit of the University.

(4) The Internal Auditor shall, subject to subsections (3) and (4) of section 16 of the Internal Audit Agency Act, 2003 (Act 658), at intervals of three months

- (a) prepare and submit to the Council, a report on the internal audit carried out during the period of three months immediately preceding the preparation of the report; and
- (b) make recommendations in each report with respect to matters which appear to the Internal Auditor as necessary for the conduct of the affairs of the University.

(5) The Internal Auditor shall, in accordance with subsection (4) of section 16 of the Internal Audit Agency Act, 2003 (Act 658), submit a copy of each report prepared under this section to the Minister and the chairperson of the Board.

Accounts and audit

36. (1) The Council shall ensure that the University keeps books of account and proper records in the form approved by the Auditor-General.

(2) The Council shall submit the annual accounts of the University to the Auditor-General for audit within three months after the end of the financial year and cause the accounts to be published at the time and in the manner that the Council considers appropriate.

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(3) The accounts shall be under the signature of the Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Finance.

(4) The Auditor-General shall, not later than three months after the receipt of the accounts, audit the accounts and forward a copy of the audit report to the Minister.

Annual report and other reports

37. (1) The Council shall, within three months after the end of each academic year, submit a report to the Minister covering the activities of the University for the year to which the report relates and make that report available to the public.

(2) The report submitted under subsection (1) shall include the report of the Auditor-General.

(3) The Minister shall, within one month after the receipt of the annual report, submit the report to Parliament with a statement that the Minister considers necessary.

(4) The Council shall also submit to the Minister any other reports which the Minister may require in writing.

Exemption from taxes, duties and other charges

38. The University is exempt from the payment of taxes, duties and other charges that the Minister responsible for Finance may determine with the prior approval of Parliament.

Miscellaneous Matters

Anti-discrimination

39. (1) Without limiting the power of the University to adopt affirmative action policies, the University, or an officer of the University shall not discriminate against a person on the basis of that person's race, ethnic origin, political opinion, colour, gender, occupation, religion or creed, disability, social or economic status to determine whether that person is to be

- (a) admitted as a student of the University;
- (b) registered as a student of the University;
- (c) permitted to graduate from the University;
- (d) appointed as an academic staff or other staff member;

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- (e) promoted as an academic staff or other member; or
- (f) granted any advantage, privilege or other benefit accorded to all other persons.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), “an officer of the University” includes a Principal Officer, staff or other employee, an agent, servant or any other person performing or acting in an official capacity for or on behalf of the University.

(3) For the purpose of this section, “discriminate” means to give different treatment to different persons attributable only or mainly on the grounds stated in subsection (1).

Matriculation

40. (1) A student admitted to the University, shall take the Matriculation Oath and sign the Matriculation Register.

(2) A student who fails to sign the Matriculation Register shall be prevented by the University from graduating.

Dispute settlement

41. (1) There is established by this Act a body to be known as the Ghana Communication Technology University Appeals Board.

(2) The Council shall appoint the Members of the Appeals Board.

(3) The Appeals Board shall consist of

- (a) a chairperson who is a retired justice of the Superior Courts of Judicature or a lawyer qualified to be so appointed;
- (b) two lawyers of at least ten years standing at the Bar who are persons of high moral integrity, one of whom is a woman; and
- (c) two persons who are not lawyers or employees of the University who are persons of high moral integrity, one of whom is a woman.

(4) The Appeals Board shall hear and determine on appeal, matters

on

- (a) an act or omission in contravention of this Act or the Statutes enacted by the Council;
- (b) breach of an employment contract by the University;
- (c) the promotion of persons duly employed by the University;
- (d) grievances by a student against the University on matters related to welfare and discipline; or
- (e) any other matter or dispute referred to the Appeals Board by the Council.

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(5) The chairperson and two other members of the Appeals Board, constitute a panel for the hearing and determination of a case or matter before the Appeals Board.

(6) In the absence of the chairperson, one of the two lawyers as specified in paragraph (b) of subsection (3), shall act as chairperson.

(7) The Council shall establish the rules and procedure which govern

- (a) the operation of the Appeals Board;
- (b) the appointment and remuneration of the members of the Appeals Board;
- (c) the functions of the acting chairperson;
- (d) the establishment of the Secretariat of the Appeals Board, and
- (e) any other relevant matter.

Interpretation

42. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

“Academic year” in relation to teaching, appointment, retirement and related matters means the period from the 1st day of August in a calendar year to the 31st day of July of the next following year or any other period determined by the Academic Board;

“Board” means the Academic Board of the University established under section 24;

“Calendar” means the official programme of activities of the University with respective dates;

“College” means a collection of academically-related establishments such as Faculties, Schools and Institutes;

“Council” means the governing body of the University established under section 6;

“independent profit centre” means a professional development and research centre for training, design, manufacturing, and processes which leads to commercialism and a profitable venture or activity;

“junior member” means a student enrolled for the time being in the University;

“junior staff” means a person in the employment of the University of the rank below the Administrative Assistant or its equivalent;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for Education;

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- “operative date” means the day on which a Statute is enacted;
“professor” means a full professor;
“professorial status” refers to the ranks of professor and associate professor;
“Pro Vice-Chancellor” means the person appointed under section 19 to the office of Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University;
“Statutes” means administrative guidelines enacted by the University Council in accordance with the Act to govern the internal operation of the University;
“support staff” means a person other than senior staff employed by the University who is an Administrative Assistant or of a rank lower than an Administrative Assistant;
“University” means the Ghana Communication Technology University established under section 1; and
“Vice-Chancellor” means the person appointed under section 16 as the Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Transitional provisions

43. (1) A contract entered into by the Ghana Technology University College shall have effect as if entered into by the University and obligations and liabilities subsisting against the governing body of the Ghana Technology University College immediately before coming into force of this Act shall, on the coming into force of this Act, subsist between the Council established under this Act and that other person.

(2) Subject to this Act, the assets, liabilities, rights and property held by or on behalf of or on the purpose of the Ghana Technology University College in existence immediately before the coming into force of this Act and all persons employed for or by the Ghana Technology University College are by this section transferred to the University established under this Act.

(3) Until the date of the first meeting of the Council, the governing body of the Ghana Technology University College shall have and exercise the powers conferred by this Act on the Council and any act lawfully made or done by the governing body of the Ghana Technology University College before that date, has effect as if done by the Council.

Date of *Gazette* notification: 8th April, 2019.

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MEMORANDUM

The purpose of the Bill is to establish the Ghana Communication Technology University as a public tertiary institution to provide education in information communication technology. The Ghana Communication Technology University was established in 2006 and it has since provided long term and short term education and training in information communication technology for diverse stakeholders both in Ghana and the subregion of West Africa. The University plays a leading role in the use of technology to enhance teaching and training at the tertiary level.

The University has its roots in the Ghana Telecom flagship Training Centre, which was the first of a kind in West Africa. It was first used as a Royal Air Force (RAF) Training School during the Second World War and subsequently handed over to Cable and Wireless to train telecommunications technicians for British West African countries namely Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Gambia. The Training Centre progressed rapidly through deregulation and privatisation to become the main source of teaching and certification in telecommunications engineering for Ghana Telecom employees, as well as other institutions in Ghana and West Africa.

In 2005, Ghana Telecom upgraded the infrastructure and equipment to requisite standards in preparation for converting the training centre into a university for telecommunication, engineering and information technology.

On 1st November 2005, the Ghana Telecom University was granted authorisation to continue its preparation for accreditation from the National Accreditation Board. The University obtained its accreditation on 30th March, 2006 and was registered in accordance with regulation 12 of the Tertiary Institutions (Establishment and Accreditation) Regulations, 2012 (L.I. 1700) to run eight programmes. The University was officially inaugurated on 15th August, 2006 by His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor.

Since its establishment, the Ghana Technology University has signed various collaborative agreements with international partners like Coventry

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University, Staffordshire and University of Hertfordshire in the United Kingdom, Aalborg University in Denmark, Wildau University and Anhalt University in Germany, CASS European Institute of Management Studies in Luxemburg, Gulin University, Jiagxin University, and Changzhou University in China, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Central State University, and the Southern Polytechnic State University, in the United States of America, Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria and the University of Gabon and local institutions like Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Koforidua Polytechnic, NIIT and IPMC in Ghana. These agreements seek to ensure that students of the Ghana Communication Technology University are provided with cutting edge and innovative programmes that are relevant to the socio-economic development of Ghana and the subregion of West Africa.

In recent times, online or e-learning is considered as integral to the learning environment of top universities. In view of this, the Ghana Communication Technology University is undertaking the crusade of changing the system of tertiary education delivery in Ghana by using information and communication technology to enhance learning outcomes. Moreover, as a technology-oriented institution, the University seeks to establish the University as a nationally and internationally recognised leader in the application of information technology to education and other sectors of our economy.

In order to ensure that the University is strategically managed, counselled, monitored and effectively evaluated, in 2010 His Excellency Prof. John Evans Atta Mills, the late President appointed a nine-member Council as the governing body for the University College. The transformation of the University College into a fully-fledged public university after ten years as a University College will enable it to achieve the aims specified in *clause 3* of the Bill.

Clause 1 establishes the Ghana Communication Technology University as a body corporate with perpetual succession. *Clause 2* provides for the status of the university as an institution with financial autonomy and which promotes equitable access.

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The aims of the University as indicated in *clause 3* are to provide a viable world class centre for higher education in communication technology education and to undertake research in accordance with principles to promote education, training and capacity building in various academic disciplines, provide global consultancy services to both the private and public sectors, promote basic and applied research, and create an entrepreneurial environment that will support innovation and product incubation development while fostering university-industry linkages.

The main campus of the University is in Tesano, Accra with other campuses to be located at Koforidua, Ho, Takoradi and Kumasi as determined by the Council, *clause 4*.

Clause 5 empowers the University to award its own degrees including honorary degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Clauses 6 to 32 deal with the administration of the University. The governing body of the University provided for under *Clause 6* is a Council consisting of a chairperson nominated by the President, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, one representative of the Ministry of Education not below the rank of a Director, two senior members of the University elected by the Convocation, one representative of the information communication technology industry, one representative of the Conference of Heads of Assisted Secondary Schools and three other persons nominated by the President at least one of whom is a woman. The members of the Council are to be appointed in accordance with article 70 of the Constitution.

Clause 7 sets out the functions of the University Council to include the duty to approve overall plans and programmes, to prescribe the terms and conditions for the admission of a person selected for any course of study and training organised by the University, to institute awards and scholarship schemes, to ensure the timely audit of the finances of the University and to perform any other function that is incidental to the achievement of the aims of the University.

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The Council is mandated under *clause 8* to establish standing or ad-hoc committees comprising members or non-members of the Council and to assign to the committees, functions that the Council considers appropriate. A committee made up entirely of non-members is to be advisory.

Clause 9 provides for the tenure of office of members of the Council. *Clauses 10* and *11* are on the meetings of the Council and the disclosure of interest respectively. *Clause 12* provides for the allowances of members of the Council and members of committees of Council.

The Council is empowered under *clause 13* to provide for any act or thing in relation to the University which the Council considers necessary or expedient in its capacity as governing body of the University.

The Principal Officers of the University are the Chancellor, chairperson of the Council and the Vice Chancellor, *clause 14*.

The appointment and functions of the Chancellor are provided for in *clause 15*. *Clause 16* is on the vacancy in the Office of the Chancellor.

Clause 17 provides for the Vice-Chancellor of the University as the academic and administrative head of the University and the chief disciplinary officer of the University. The Vice-Chancellor is to exercise general authority over the staff of the University, to provide the Council with returns, reports and any other relevant information that the Council may require and to ensure the implementation of the decisions of the Council. *Clause 18* provides for a vacancy in the office of the Vice-Chancellor.

Clause 19 provides for the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University. The Pro Vice-Chancellor is to be appointed in accordance with the Statutes of the University. The Pro Vice-Chancellor is required to attend a Council Meeting but not to vote at the meeting. The Council may appoint an additional Pro Vice-Chancellor to perform other functions.

Clause 20 provides for the Registrar of the University who is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the University. *Clause 21* provides for the appointment of a Director of Finance for the University.

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The Council is empowered under *clause 22* to appoint academic, administrative and other staff as are necessary for the effective performance of the functions of the University. *Clause 23* deals with the remuneration and pension of staff of the University.

The Academic Board is established under *clause 24*. The members of the Academic Board are the Vice-Chancellor of the University, who is the chairperson, the Pro Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs, the Dean or a representative of each faculty, the full professors of the University, the Registrar of the University or a representative of the Registrar and the Librarian of the University, *clause 25*.

Clause 26 provides for the functions of the Academic Board which include the determination of the criteria for the admission of students into the University and the determination of the content of curricula for the University, the academic standards, validations and review of courses, among others. Other functions include the regulation and assessment of academic work in the University in the areas of teaching and research, the consideration of resources required to support the academic activities of the University and the performance of any other function specified in the Statutes of the University.

Clause 27 empowers the Council to make arrangements concerning the internal organisation of the University including the establishment, supervision or variation of the halls of residence, academic faculties, administrative divisions and departments, independent profit centres and other bodies, lectureships, teaching and research and the academic and administrative posts and functions of the University.

The Students' Representative Council is provided for under *clause 28* with the responsibility of representing students duly admitted and registered to study at the University.

Clauses 29 and *30* provide for the Statutes of the University and the procedure for the enactment of the Statutes respectively. The University is obliged under *clause 31* to have a Convocation and the University may hold a Congregation at the times determined by the Council under *clause 32*.

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Clauses 33 and 34 deal with the financial matters of the University. The funds of the University include moneys that accrue to the University in the performance of its functions, returns on investments, donations and gifts and moneys from any other source approved by the Council, clause 33. The Council is mandated under clause 34 to control and manage the finances of the University and to determine matters on the financial administration of the University.

Clauses 35 and 36 provide for the Internal Audit Unit of the University, and accounts and audit respectively. Annual report and other reports are dealt with in clause 37.

Clause 38 exempts the University from the payment of taxes, duties and other charges that the Minister responsible for Finance may determine with the prior approval of Parliament.

Clauses 39 to 43 deal with miscellaneous matters. Clause 39 prohibits the University or an officer of the University from discriminating against a person on the basis of that person's religion, political affiliation, gender, ethnic origin, disability, race, colour or social or economic status to determine whether that person is to be appointed as an academic staff or other staff member; promoted as an academic staff or other staff member; admitted as a student of the University; registered as a student of the University, permitted to graduate from the University; or granted any advantage, privilege or other benefit accorded to all other persons.

Clause 40 obliges a student admitted to the University to take the Matriculation Oath and sign the Matriculation Register. Clause 41 deals with dispute settlement and establishes a body to be known as the Ghana Communication Technology University Appeals Board. Clause 42 deals with interpretation.

Clause 43 deals with transitional provisions. Subject to the Bill, the assets, liabilities, rights and properties held by or on behalf of or for the purposes of the University College in existence immediately before the

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coming into force of the Bill and all persons employed for or by the University College are to be transferred to the University established under the Bill.

DR. MATTHEW OPOKU PREMPEH (MP)
Minister responsible for Education

Date: 27th March, 2019.