

**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**ON THE**

**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA BILL**

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**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to Articles 103 and 106 (4) of the 1992 Constitution and Order 125 and 186 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, the *University of Ghana Bill* was referred to the Committee on Education for consideration and report in accordance with Order 126 of the Standing Orders of Parliament.

**2.0 DELIBERATIONS**

The Committee in considering the Bill first held a Stakeholders Forum on the 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2010 to seek views on the proposed Act. The Committee also benefited from written memoranda and oral submissions presented by interested groups and individuals.

The Committee is grateful to the Minister for Education, the Pro-Vice Chancellor and his team from the University of Ghana, personnel from the Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General as well as the other Stakeholders for providing the necessary inputs and clarifications during the examination of the Bill.

**3.0 REFERENCES**

In considering the report, the Committee made reference to the following documents:

- a. The 1992 Constitution
- b. The Standing Orders of Parliament
- c. University of Ghana Bill
- d. The University of Ghana Act, 1961 (Act 79)
- e. The Statutes of the University of Ghana, Legon, August 2004
- f. The Background Notes from the Ministry of Education
- g. Presentations and clarifications by Stakeholders

**4.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The University of Ghana has since 1961 been guided and managed under the University of Ghana Act, 1961, (Act 79) despite the massive changes in policy and focus of the University. To be in tandem with the current operations and modern practices of chartered

universities worldwide, there is the need for the University to review its statutes and management.

The review has become more necessary as a result of the perceived deterioration in the University's academic standards and general service delivery, coupled with the steady decline suffered by the University over the years due to a number of internal and external factors. These include the phenomenal growth of student population from ten thousand in the year 2000, to over 28,000 in 2006, due largely to the Education Sector Reforms initiated in 1986. The phenomenal increase in the student population however, proceeded without a corresponding expansion of infrastructure, improvement in faculty strength or change in administrative systems which has created problems.

The Bill seeks to modify the role and composition of the University Council, restructure and reorganize the existing dysfunctional organizational structure by expanding the membership of the Council from fifteen to over twenty members to enable it play an effective role as the governing body of the University.

It also seeks to strengthen the position of the University's governing council and other office holders in the performance of the functions prescribed for them. Students' representation would also be strengthened in the governing bodies as pertains in similar institutions elsewhere.

## **5.0 THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL**

This Bill seeks to repeal and replace the University of Ghana Act, 1961 (Act 79) passed forty-nine years ago to enable the University undergo transformation and modernization to keep pace with trends and practices in modern chartered universities worldwide.

## **6.0 DIVISIONS OF THE BILL**

The Bill is divided into four main sections namely:

- *Establishment of the University*
- *Administration*
- *Financial matters*
- *Miscellaneous*

## **6.0 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CLAUSES OF THE BILL**

The Bill consists of 34 clauses. *Clause 1* establishes the University of Ghana as a body corporate with perpetual succession, *Clause 2* provides for the award of degrees by the University whilst *clause 3* is on the membership of the University.

*Clause 4* states the aims of the University which are to provide higher education, undertake research, dissemination knowledge and foster relationships with outside persons and bodies.

The principles underlying these aims include placing emphasis on courses of special relevance to the needs and aspirations of Ghanaians including the furtherance of African unity and making higher education available to Ghanaians capable of benefiting from it. Others are that, as far as practicable, students are given an understanding of world affairs and in particular, of the histories, institutions and cultures of African civilizations and the fruits of research and knowledge generally are spread abroad by the publication of books and papers and by any other suitable means.

*Clause 5* deals with the principal officers of the University Council who are the Chancellor, Chairperson of the University Council and the Vice Chancellor. The clause states that prior to their assumption of office, the Chancellor, chairperson, members of the University Council and the Vice-Chancellor are to swear the oath of office as prescribed by the 1992 Constitution. The President is to administer the Oath of the Chancellor whilst the Chancellor administers the Oath to the other officers.

*Clause 6* deals with the office of the Chancellor of the University. The Chancellor is to be elected by an Electoral College made up of equal numbers based on the total membership of Council and Academic Board, convened specially for that purpose by the Registrar of the University.

*Clause 7* provides for the vacancy in the office of Chancellor. This occurs on resignation, death or removal from office of the Chancellor. The grounds and procedures for removal are to be spelt out in a statute enacted for the purpose.

*Clause 8* provides for the chairperson of the University Council who is to be appointed by the Chancellor in consultation with the President from among the government nominees. Other matters dealt with under the clause include the terms and conditions and the responsibilities of the office of the chairperson which are specified in the letter of appointment.

Provision is also made for the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor by the University Council in clause 9.

*Clause 10* deals with the Pro-Vice-Chancellors who are to be appointed in accordance with the statute of the University. The clause spells out some of the functions which include acting as Vice-Chancellor where the office of Vice-Chancellor is vacant or the Vice-Chancellor is absent or unable to act as Vice-Chancellor. There may be more than

one Pro-Vice-Chancellor. The clause deals with the terms of office which is for a period of three years with re-appointment for one more term only.

*Clause 11* establishes the University Council as the governing body of the University. The clause spells out the membership of the Council as the Chancellor, the chairperson, the Vice-Chancellor, four persons appointed by the President taking into account the need for gender balance and expertise in finance and management. Others are, a representative of the alumni of the University, two representatives of convocation and a representative of the National Council for Tertiary Education nominated by the Council for Tertiary Education.

*Clause 12* spells out the functions of the University Council. These are to ensure the realization of the aims and objectives of the University, determine the strategic director of the University and to monitor, evaluate and implement the resultant policies and ensure the creation of an environment of equal opportunity for member of the University without regards to ethnicity, sex, race, religious belief or political affiliation. The clause also provides for the establishment of standing and ad-hoc committees made up of members and non-members of the Council.

*Clause 13* deals with terms of office of members of the Council. A non-University member of the Council is to hold office for a period of three years and is eligible for re-appointment for a second term whilst a University member, except the Vice-Chancellor, is to hold office for a period of two years and is eligible for re-appointment for a second term.

*Clause 14* provides for members of the University Council. *Clause 15* is on meetings of the Council which are to be held at least three times in each academic year for the dispatch of business at the times and in the places determined by the chairperson.

*Clause 16* spells out the powers of the Council whilst *clause 17* provides for the Academic Board which is answerable to the University Council.

In *clause 18*, the functions of the Academic Board are spelt out. The functions are the formulation of the academic policy of the University, promotion and supervision of research, and regulation of the conduct of examinations and the award of degrees, diplomas and certificates. Others are to devise and regulate courses of instruction and study subject to accreditation by the National Accreditation Board. The Academic Board is also to advise the University Council on persons to be awarded honorary degrees and the admission of students and award of scholarships.

*Clause 19* is on composition of the Academic Board. The Board consists of the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Provosts and Deans, Deputy Provost and Vice-Deans,