



University of Venda

Creating Future Leaders

OVERVIEW OF SUPERVISION MODELS AT UNIVEN

- Our context
- Progress to date
- Quality assurance measures
- Strategy and performance
- Annual Review for quality

Our context

- Aged policies accompanied by unaligned historical practices
 - University focused on undergraduate programmes
 - Post-graduate students staying too long in the system
 - Supervisors supervising outside their niche areas
 - Only one on one supervision with co-supervision in some cases with no structure
 - Some supervisors with huge numbers of students for a long time
 - Funding not aligned to student performance

Progress to date

- Policies reviewed with guidelines, aligned with strategy and approved 3rd December 2021
- Addressing student residency with 2023 timeline
- Research and Postgraduate Strategy approved 2022
- Residency period strategy approved
- Requirements
 - Appointment of eligible supervisors by FHDC to UHDC to be approved by Senate (active scholars)
 - Student and supervisor memorandum of agreement
 - Quality of students admitted for postgraduate studies
 - Provision of supervision skills through targeted training
 - Training of postgraduate students targeting their needs

Progress to date

- Supervisory workload determined according to expertise and teaching load (mentorship plays significant part for developing capacity)
- Masters may have one supervisor, however when they need arises for multidisciplinary expertise co-supervision is encouraged
- Co-supervision with external experts through adjunct professorship and MoUs with partners
- Co-supervision is encouraged for doctoral studies with clear roles of the co-supervisors and communication lines with the student

Progress to date

- UHDC monitors implementation of the policy guidelines
- Student funding linked with performance and residency period
- Ethical clearance certificate a requirement to submit a proposal
- Proposal Viva conducted as the final assessment stage of a proposal
- Examination excludes supervisors completely. A non-examining chair is appointed for the examination process
- Selection of examiners is done by Faculty committee from a pool of examiners collected by the faculty through experts
- Dissertation and Thesis Viva assessed including external examiners
- Masters' final results to be accompanied by a publication submission
- Doctoral final results to be accompanied by student publication.

Progress to date

- Conducting multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary studies through our own internal collaborations and ecosystem for engaged scholarship (World food programme UN agency)
 - Conservation Science (IKS)
 - France South Africa AGRI relations and plans
 - Extramural Unit (Antimicrobial Resistance and Global Health)
- Submitted a research Chair proposal on Food nutrition
- Re-imagining our CHETL to provide support to postgraduate studies

Quality assurance measures

- Provision of Postgraduate working space by both Faculties and Facilities
- Department committee (promoting relevant impactful studies)
- Faculty UHDC
- Quality Assurance Committee
- UHDC
- IPQA

Strategy and performance management

- Open a blog for anonymous student feedback
- Supervision aligned to the performance management
- Integrating excellent practices from the Institute of Rural Development to the mainstream
- Mentoring monitored through reporting and outputs also aligned with performance management

Annual review for quality

- Faculties conduct annual review of a selected post-graduate programme annually
- IPQA conduct internal reviews to monitor quality



- **THANK YOU**

