UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA

Office of the Vice-Chancellor and Rector
Kantoor van die Visekanselier en Rektor

16 Mei 2016

Verklaring deur prof Jonathan Jansen, Visekanselier en Rektor van die UV

Op 31 Augustus 2016 sal ek as Visekanselier en Rektor van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat (UV) uittree.

Sedert my aanvanklike aanstelling in die middel van 2009, het ek my senior kollegas ingelig dat ek nie vir langer as sewe jaar sal aanbly nie – na my raming die optimale tydperk om 'n meetbare impak op die akademiese transformasie van 'n universiteit te maak. Met die hernuwing van my vyfjaar-kontrak in 2014, het ek weer die leierskap van die universiteitsraad ingelig dat ek nie langer as 'n verdere twee jaar (dit wil sê sewe jaar) as akademiese leier van hierdie wonderlike hoëronderwysinstelling sal aanbly nie. Aan die einde van 2015 het ek ook die dekane oor my voorneme om die einde van my ampstermyn teen 2016 te begin beplan, ingelig. Daardie tyd het aangebreek en die einde van Augustus 2016 sal beteken dat ek die pos as Visekanselier en Rektor vir net meer as sewe jaar beklee het.

Ek het altyd verwag dat hierdie oomblik gemengde gevoelens sou meebring. Aan die een kant was hierdie afgelope sewe jaar by verre die opwindendste leierskapposisie wat ek bevoorreg was om te beklee. Ek kan nie begin om die wydte en diepte van die talle en waaghalsige veranderinge op te noem wat deur my ongelooflike span onderneem is nie. Om maar 'n paar te noem: die skerp styging in die akademiese standaard vir sowel studente as akademici, veral in die professoraat; die innoverende en unieke kernkurrikulum; die stadige, maar bestendige transformasie van die koshuise; die geleidelike, maar besliste veranderinge aan die institusionele simboliek vir groter insluiting, wat met die universiteitswapen begin het; die positiewe veranderinge in rasseverhoudinge onder baie van ons studente; die vinnige groei in buite-inkomste, veral van trusts en stigtings; die ongekende groei in navorsingsproduktiwiteit en die vakkundigheid van boeke; die meer inklusiewe taalbeleid; die fundamentele transformasie van die Raad en eersdaags die Senaat; die demografiese diversiteit van studente volgens ras, streek, godsdiens, ens.; die enorme beleggings wat tot die akademiese en sosiale transformasie van die Qwaqwa-kampus gelei het; die sukses van die eksperimentele Suid-kampus in die verruiming van toegang tot grade vir studente in ons Universiteitsvoorbereidingsprogram; die dramatiese styging in die slaagsyfer van sowat 60% tot meer as 80%; en die bestendige geldelike posisie van die universiteit ten spyte van die ongelooflike begrotingsdruk as gevolg van bekende ontwikkelings in die buite-omgewing.

Aan die ander kant is die besluit om die pos as Visekanselier en Rektor aan so 'n ongelooflike universiteit te ontruim, 'n moeilike een. Ek sal die studente van ons universiteit, waarvan baie in die afgelope sewe jaar moeiteloos van die kampus deur ons huis en ons lewens beweeg het, geweldig mis. Ek sal die ongelooflike edelmoedigheid van so baie akademiese en steunpersoneel veral gedurende moeilike tye mis. Ek sal die volgehoue ondersteuning van die Senaat, die onwrikbare vertroue van die Raad en die kritiese, konstruktiewe, maar altyd eerbiedige betrokkenheid van ons twee groot vakbonde mis. Ek was baie, baie bevoorreg om vir so lank op so 'n spesiale plek te wees.

205 Nelson Mandela Drive/Rylaan
Park West/Parkwes
Bloemfontein 9301
South Africa/Suid-Afrika

P.O. Box / Posbus 339
Bloemfontein 9300
South Africa / Suid-Afrika
T:+27(0)51 401 7000
F:+27(0)51 401 3669
www.ufs.ac.za

Ek vertrek op my eie voorwaardes en sonder enige verwyte, maar met grenslose dankbaarheid teenoor almal wat my gehelp het om elke dag 'n beter leier in hierdie pos te word.

Ek sal in September 2016 'n uitnodiging as genoot aan die Sentrum vir Gevorderde Studies in Gedragswetenskappe aan die Stanford-Universiteit aanvaar. Ek sal my navorsing, skryfwerk en studieleidingspligte aan die UV voortsit en sal die projek lei om die teikenbedrag vir die Studentebeursfonds-veldtog in te samel.

Ten slotte, sal die UV-Raad binnekort die pos vir 'n nuwe Visekanselier en Rektor deur middel van 'n nasionale en internasionale soektog na die beste persoon vir die werk adverteer.

Jonathan D Jansen, PhD
Visekanselier & Rektor, UV

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA

Office of the Vice-Chancellor and Rector
Kantoor van die Visekanselier en Rektor

16 May 2016

Statement by Prof Jonathan Jansen, Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the UFS

On 31 August 2016, I will be stepping down as Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the University of the Free State (UFS).

Since my initial appointment in middle 2009, I informed my senior colleagues that I would not be staying on for longer than seven years, in my estimation the optimal duration of time for making a measurable impact on the academic transformation of a university. With the renewal of my five-year contract in 2014, I again informed the leadership of the university council that I would not stay beyond an additional two years (that is, seven years) as academic leader of this great institution of higher learning. At the end of 2015, I also informed the deans of my intention to start planning the end of my tenure by 2016. That time has come, and the end of August 2016 would mean that I have held the position of Vice-Chancellor and Rector for just more than seven years.

I always expected this moment to be one that would evoke mixed emotions. On the one hand, these past seven years have been by far the most exciting position of leadership that I have been privileged to hold. I cannot begin to list the breadth and depth of the many and daring changes led and undertaken by my incredible team. To mention a few: the sharp increase in the academic standard for both students and academics, especially in the professoriate; the innovative and unique core curriculum; the slow, but steady transformation of the residences; the gradual, but firm changes to the institutional symbolism for greater inclusion, starting with the coat of arms of the university; the positive changes in race relations among many of our students; the rapid growth in external income, especially from trusts and foundations; the unprecedented growth in research productivity and the scholarship of books; the more inclusive language policy; the fundamental transformation of Council and, shortly, the Senate; the demographic diversity of students by race, region, religion, etc.; the massive investments that led to the academic and social transformation of the Qwaqwa Campus; the success of the experimental South Campus in broadening access to degrees for students in our University Preparation Programme; the dramatic rise in the pass rate from around 60% to more than 80%; and the stable financial position of the university despite the incredible budgetary pressures as a result of familiar developments in the external environment.

On the other hand, the decision to vacate the position of Vice-Chancellor and Rector at such an incredible university is a difficult one. I will miss immensely the students of our university, many of whom moved seamlessly from campus through our home and our lives over the past seven years. I will miss the incredible generosity of so many academic and support staff, especially during difficult times. I will miss the consistent support of the Senate, the unwavering trust of the Council, and the critical, constructive, but always respectful engagement from our two great trade unions. I was really, really fortunate to be in such a special place for so long.

205 Nelson Mandela Drive/Rylaan
Park West/Parkwes
Bloemfontein 9301
South Africa/Suid-Afrika

P.O. Box / Posbus 339
Bloemfontein 9300
South Africa / Suid-Afrika
T:+27(0)51 401 7000
F:+27(0)51 401 3669
www.ufs.ac.za

I leave on my own terms, and without any regrets, but with boundless gratitude to all of those who have helped me become a better leader every day in this job.

In September 2016 I will be taking up an invitation as a Fellow at the Center for the Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. I will continue my research, writing and supervision duties at the UFS as well as lead the project to raise the target funding for the Student Bursary Financial Campaign.

Finally, the University Council will shortly advertise the position for a new Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the UFS through a national and international search for the best person for the job.

Jonathan D Jansen, PhD
Vice-Chancellor & Rector, UFS