

MEDIA STATEMENT

Unisa Convocation statement on the Convocation Exco meeting

Approved for Public Release

Date: Monday, 27 October 2025

The University of South Africa (Unisa)'s Convocation Executive Committee (Exco) held its meeting in October 2025, in accordance with the Statutes, which require the Executive Committee to convene periodically to receive reports and chart the way forward.

1. Report on the inaugural convocation gala dinner.

The meeting reflects on the successful and historic Inaugural Convocation Gala Dinner that was held on 23 September 2025. The event raised over R5 million to support student graduations, ensuring that no student is left behind.

The Gala was addressed by the President of Convocation, Mr Justice Dabampe, who highlighted our shared vision for the future. Key highlights included the imminent opening of Unisa's new Disability Centre, promoting access and inclusion for all students, and the recognition of Unisa's standing as one of South Africa's top eight universities and among the world's top 1,000 universities.

Dr Thebe Ikalafeng delivered an inspiring message of support, pledging the ABLE Fellowship for Africa's PhD students and donating the 'Africa Reimagined Map' to the Unisa Art Gallery.

Moving testimonies from students and the NSRC led by Nkosinathi Mabilane emphasised that contributions are not merely donations but investments in lives and futures.

The Convocation also acknowledges the many individuals, businesses and partners whose generous contributions, whether financial, in-kind, or through mentorship and advocacy, made the Gala a resounding success. Their collective effort reflects the true spirit of the Unisa community.

2. Convocation programme for 2026 academic year.

The Executive Committee approved several exciting programmes for 2026 academic year with the aim to strengthen the connection among graduates and the wider community. These include the second Fundraising Gala Dinner, which aims to double the funds raised in 2025, and the UNISA Fun Run, to be named the Rosina Modiba Run. A Fundraising Breakfast event will also be hosted to mobilise continued support for Unisa students.



3. Appointment of Unisa Alumni as supervisors for Masters and Doctoral (M&D) Students.

The Exco made a resolution that qualifying Unisa alumni should be appointed as supervisors for Master's and Doctoral students. This marks a significant and progressive step towards expanding supervision capacity, improving research throughput, and deepening alumni engagement.

By empowering qualified alumni to contribute academically, the initiative will not only address supervisory challenges but also strengthen Unisa's intellectual community. It reflects Convocation's commitment to inclusive growth, academic excellence, and alumni participation in shaping the future of the university.

We trust that Management, led by our esteemed alumnus and Exco member Professor Puleng LenkaBula, will implement this resolution and invite alumni to apply for supervisory roles.

4. Convocation Chapters.

In accordance with the Statutes, Convocation Chapters must be maintained. As the current mandates of the UNISA Convocation Chapters are expiring, elections will be held in 2026, and election dates will be announced in due course.

5. Convocation Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The 2025 Annual General Meeting will be held on 6 December 2025 in a hybrid format. The first 200 who RSVP will be accommodated on campus, with others joining online via Teams. The AGM provides an opportunity to receive reports and consider recommendations from alumni.

The meeting demonstrated Unisa Convocation commitment to advance the university's mission by supporting students, engaging alumni, and strengthening governance.

As a statutory body established in accordance with institutional statutes, the Convocation Executive Committee is looking forward to collective efforts in 2026 as it continue to build a Convocation that inspires, connects, and leads.

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For more information, please contact Unisa Senior Media Officers: Mr Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981 / humartm@unisa.ac.za OR Mr Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 3981 / ratheme@unisa.ac.za

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