



# **Policy on Professorial Inaugural Lectures**

*Approved by UR Board of Governors Meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016*

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## **POLICY STATEMENT**

### **1. PURPOSE STATEMENT**

Inaugural lectures present an opportunity for showcasing exciting and ground-breaking research and teaching being carried out by professors in our University. Each lecture represents a significant milestone in an academic's career, providing official recognition of their promotion or appointment to full professorship. These lectures are furthermore an ideal opportunity for new professors to introduce themselves and to present an overview of their own contribution to their field to academic peers, students and research collaborators. They are also a platform for celebrating a professor's academic achievements with their family, friends, mentors and colleagues.

### **2. SCOPE**

1. Inaugural lectures shall form part of the University's Public lectures series and will only be given by newly appointed professors who have been appointed in academic Schools and Centres. Honorary Professors are exempted from delivering inaugural lectures.

### **3. THE POLICY**

- 3.1 The inaugurands shall be required to present either of the following:
  - 3.1.1 An overview of their contribution, in their respective fields, to academic peers, students, research collaborators. In certain instances, the delivering of an inaugural lecture may present an opportunity to engage with local, national and international industry and businesses, as well as other interested parties (including and general public).
  - 3.1.2 The future of their disciplines, particular subject, in a changing context.
  - 3.1.3 The contribution of their discipline to the mission and strategic direction of the University of Rwanda.
- 3.2 Inaugural lectures shall be delivered by all newly appointed full professors within twelve (12) months of the date of appointment.
- 3.3 Each inaugural lecture shall be delivered by an inaugurand at a duly allocated venue, preferably on the base campus of the inaugurand.



- 3.4 An Inaugurand unable to deliver an inaugural lecture (for whatever reason), shall be expected to request and receive permission from the Registrar, who will consult with the Vice Chancellor, for deferment or postponement of the inaugural lecture to the following year.
- 3.5 Inaugural lectures shall not have time set aside for 'questions and answers'.
- 3.6 Inaugural lectures shall be documented in DVD or similar format, and a copy must be deposited to the University Archives.

#### **4. PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 The inaugural lectures should be planned for a weekday during term time; starting around 17h00 and lasting for approximately 45 minutes.
- 4.2 The Office of the Registrar shall assume the responsibility to oversee the coordination of all inaugural lectures, including the finalization of schedules of professors due to deliver these lectures each year.
- 4.3 The Registrar's office together with inaugurands and other officiating parties will decide on dates and venues to be used for each of the inaugural lectures.
- 4.4 The Registrar's office shall be liable for costs associated with the staging of inaugural lectures such as catering, décor, branding, and audio-visual.
- 4.5 The procession in respect of inaugural lectures shall be limited to the following:
- a) Vice-Chancellor
  - b) Deputy Vice Chancellors
  - c) Chairman of Board of Governors or nominee
  - d) Principal of the College in which the inaugurate is located
  - e) Members of the Senior Management Council
  - f) The Registrar or nominee
  - g) All academic staff in the School concerned
  - h) All professors in the College concerned
  - i) The Inaugurate
  - j) The individual who will deliver the vote of thanks, and
  - k) The Dean of the School in which the inaugurate is located
  - l) The Head of Department in which the inaugurate is located

- 4.6 The Vice-Chancellor or their nominee shall open the proceedings.
- 4.7 The inaugurate shall be presented by the Dean of the School concerned.
- 4.8 Following the introduction of the Inaugurand, the Vice Chancellor and the members of the Senior Management Council and the Dean shall take their places in the audience.
- 4.9 There shall be no platform party
- 4.10 There will be a brief vote of thanks at the conclusion of the lecture
- 4.11 Copies of the inaugural lectures shall be printed for distribution in the lecture venue and elsewhere.
- 4.12 All inaugural addresses shall be advertised on the UR website and posters shall be placed on notice boards in all Campuses.

*Philip Cotton*

**Professor Philip COTTON**  
**Vice Chancellor**

