

DEVELOPMENT OF LAW POSTGRAD STUDIES

The Law Faculty:

- ✘ One department Faculty with own library, yet fully integrated into the University
- ✘ Smallest Faculty: only about 165 students, nearly all admitted to LLB in 4th year of study
- ✘ Yet one of the largest depts if size is measured in terms of FTEs: 469; largest departmental contribution to graduates in 2009; in 2011, there are about 1500 students in Law classes (over 20% of the University student population)

IN ADDRESSING POSTGRAD STUDIES:

- ✘ We considered issues relevant to Law, drawing on VC's 14 suggested issues
- ✘ Think tank of senior staff, workshop of all staff
- ✘ Constraints to PG development acknowledged:
 1. In regard to students:
 - LLB is the professional qualification for entry into the profession, and PG degrees provide limited opportunities for career enhancement (mainly academia)

CONSTRAINTS (CONTD)

- Academia in turn is not attractive given high remuneration levels in the profession
- No coursework LLM offered; limited number of graduates have academic ability to handle theses; limited funding opportunities

2. In regard to staff:

- Few PhDs among staff (30% of staff); very high FTE/SCU ratio (29.7); 56 UG courses taught by 16 staff; limits to specialist expertise; supervision inexperience; limits to no. of students per supervisor

STRATEGIC PLAN

- ✘ Three objectives identified:
- ✘ In respect of each objective: strategies and action plans developed , with who responsible & time frames
- ✘ Objectives:
 1. Increase in enrolments: (VC item 1)
 - promotion of PG study and Law Faculty as preferred research home (8 action plans)
 - partnerships with people outside Faculty (collaboration with Science on Master's in Forensics)
 - developing a joint Law honours (VC 6)
 - seeking funding opportunities (VC 11)

OBJECTIVES (CONTD)

2. Improved quality of PG research:

- Establish and market 'Law PG programme' (VC 2 & 4): orientation; research skills training; PG seminars; colloquia with UFH and NMMU; supervision plans; target dates around HDC; other facilities? (VC 10)
- Establish PG study area (donor funded)
- Promotion of student publication of work

OBJECTIVES (CONTD)

3. Improved quality of postgrad supervision (VC 7):

- Attendance of module on supervision
- In-house instruction/mentorship on other issues specific to supervision in Law
- Recruitment of staff with supervisory capacity
- Promotion of improved staff qualifications