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Media Statement

VUT EMBRACES FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

By: Mike Khuboni (Executive Director: Corporate Affairs)

VUT 4IR ICT Strategy Committee met with Microsoft SA CEO, Lilian Bernard at Microsoft offices in Bryanston, Johannesburg on 17 May 2019 to explore digital collaboration opportunities. Leading the delegation was VUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Gordon Zide together with 4IR ICT Strategy Committee members Dr Narissa Ramdhani, Dr Anneke Harmse, Dr Joe Molete, David Ramasodi and Kediemetse Mokotsi.

VUT Embraces 4IR Digital Transformation

VUT leadership embarked on 4IR Digital Transformation Strategy development in collaboration with Microsoft SA following a two-day consultation. Twenty-five (25) operational and academic university executives and senior managers gathered at VUT Council Chambers at Vanderbijlpark on 23-24 July to participate in a series of digital transformation workshops. The collaboration with Microsoft SA aims to reposition the institution by strengthening its digital capacity in teaching, learning, curriculum development, operations and management systems.

Staff participated in nine interactive workshops on Higher Education Digital Transformation Framework, encompassing Class of 2030 curriculum development, the impact of disruptive technologies and Internet of Things (IOT) such as robotics, artificial intelligence on future careers, job creation and the seamless integration of automated processes.

The workshop also aimed to identify digital literacy challenges, creating knowledge awareness of technology trends to improve institutional productivity, increased time management and promotion of innovative in digital content delivery.

Outcomes from the 4IR Digital Transformation Strategy will result in the development of implications of 4IR on teaching, learning and research framework, implementation of operational processes to facilitate a thriving digitally connected campus, data storage and digital security using cloud storage, creating university wide awareness on data protection, access and distribution of personal data on digital platforms.

VUT Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Gordon Zide said the university management is working on finalising a partnership agreement with Microsoft SA. “With the support and expertise of Microsoft, we intend to undertake an IT Audit to establish the institution’s infrastructure readiness, challenges, risks and opportunities. This will create a clear pathway for our 4IR digital journey and development of a vibrant, globally competitive technologically driven institution that provides a world class student experience and education,” said Zide.

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