

CSUC PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT THE 38TH CONGREGATION AND 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

It has been forty years of a fulfilling journey for this institution and I take this opportunity today, to welcome parents, guardians, Alumni and Friends of this very noble University College as we climax our 40 years journey with this 38th Graduation ceremony.

(Graduation statistics are in the graduation brochure and so I will not elaborate here). The summary: Five hundred and nineteen (519) students, comprising 296 males and 223 females. CSUC School of Business consists of 337; Communication Studies 74; Nursing 52; Computer Science 34; and Theology 32.

Chairperson,

In my 2013 report, I proposed a 4-point road-map for the next few years. These were:

1. Deepening our core values
2. Exploring avenues for sustainable funding
3. Quickening the pace for the granting of full university status or charter and;
4. Strengthening our global engagement

This road map was in line with my 8-point vision for CSUC, which should culminate in the attainment of her Presidential Charter. I am happy to report that progress has been made in all the 8 areas in the 2013/2014 academic year, more in some than others. These areas are:

- ▶ Upholding Values/ Identity
- ▶ Academic Programme enhancement

- ▶ Strides in Teaching and Research
- ▶ Staff Development
- ▶ Networking and Collaborations
- ▶ Funding and Sustainability issues
- ▶ Expansion in infrastructure and accessibility
- ▶ Quality Assurance Enhancement

Our identity as a Christian institution has never been more relevant than now, when even the world is going through an identity crisis and Christianity in Ghana is seen as more of a fashion than a deep, personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. We have continued to maintain all our existing soul-uplifting Chaplaincy activities and have sought to integrate faith with learning. In that regard, CSUC piloted her FAPP (Faith And Practice Programme) and has obtained modest funding from Friends in the United States to support the roll-out of FAPP. I believe we shall have exciting news on this next year.

All our academic programmes have continued to be offered and a new option in Procurement and Supply Chain Management has been introduced. Other programmes, including Masters Degrees were pursued and our MA in Christian Ministry (with Management) has seen the light of day. The others would be made known next year in the 2014/2015 report. Suffice it to say, Chairperson that the School of Graduate Studies will feature prominently in that report.

Research is a core pillar of any progressive university and I am happy to report that Faculty took a keener interest in the fortnightly research seminars that were organized. A 2-day university-wide workshop on research was also held for both full-time and part-time Faculty. A

number have been able to expand their publications and the normal progression is that this will enhance their teaching and lead to formation of Leaders with Scholarly depth, reflective Faith, moral Uprightness; and Potential for further Education and Skills to Serve and Educate the Church and Society. The University College Council continues to expect more from her Faculty.

In the area of Staff development, most Faculties without PhD are undergoing PhD programmes, mainly without CSUC's support, both within and outside Ghana. These hard-working and forward-looking staff deserves commendation. Administrative staffs who also want to obtain relevant academic programmes were encouraged to do so. Within budgetary constraints, scholarships were offered to a number of them.

Chairperson, funding has never been sufficient for any educational institution in Ghana, more so in these times of economic challenges. This year, we have not been able to award scholarships to deserving students who have won the Bill Chapman and Senavoes awards. It is my fervent hope that sponsors will be obtained during this fundraising event even as we acknowledge them.

CSUC has sought to make prudent use of her resources and our finance department deserves appreciation for keeping us all on track in terms of following laid-down principles for procurement and other financial matters. CSUC continues to explore other funding avenues and that is why today, we are calling on all and sundry to renew their friendship with us during the fund-raising time at this ceremony; which officially marks the end of the 40th Anniversary celebrations. The celebrations launched in February, was followed by the Senavoes' memorial lectures

in April and then a Stakeholder's meeting on 6th June. Today's renewal should enable us partially complete the imposing unfinished library/ICT complex, in order to expand student intake and introduce other programmes like a language department to support existing ones. We know we will not be disappointed.

During the 2013/14 academic year CSUC became a member of the prestigious Talloires Network and also IAPCHE (the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education). We also sought to renew our relationship with Eastern University in the United States.

Chairperson, since alumni form the bedrock of any institution, we have provided an alumni office and an officer to enable Alumni connect with their Alma Mater. CSUC therefore looks forward to increased interaction with her Alumni in the coming years.

Quality assurance is an area we take seriously because we are keen to obtain presidential charter next year and come 'into our own' as a full-fledged university. After 40 years of existence and 10 years under mentorship, the pupa is ready to burst forth into the imago and blossom as a butterfly. Chairperson, our mentor institutions are ably represented here and we are confident that they will appreciate our maturity and recommend us to leave the nest with their full support and blessings.


I cannot conclude, Chairperson, without a word to our graduates:

Go out there, lift high the flag of CSUC and shine wherever the Lord will place you. Remember our 5-point core values:

- The Lordship of Jesus Christ;

- Integrity;
- Hard Work;
- Good Stewardship and
- Mutual Support and Care.

May The Lord prosper the work of your hands and guide your hearts and feet so you may not stray from Him. Should the world's values beckon to you and ensnare you, always remember that He is ready to welcome you back if you turn to him in repentance. May Phil 4:13 – I can do ALL things in Christ who strengthens me – be your watchword.

Chairperson, without Christ, we can do nothing, and that is why we ask the Lord to lift us up where we belong! 

Thank you.