

VICE-CHANCELLOR S INTRODUCTION



Prof G T G Mohamedbhai
Vice-Chancellor

This report on the general activities of the University of Mauritius during the academic year 2002/2003 covers the period 01 August 2002 to 31 July 2003 and includes the financial statements of the University for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003. Appendix I shows the composition of the main governing bodies of the University.

VISION

The University of Mauritius, based in a small-island state, seeks to be a University of international standing and a leading institution in the region.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the University of Mauritius is to provide an efficient and effective service to the community through quality teaching, research, consultancy and extension services, consistent with national goals and policies, supportive of regional thrusts and orientations, and in conformance with international norms and standards.

VICE-CHANCELLOR S INTRODUCTION

The year under review was marked by an increase in student mobility: many foreign students chose the University of Mauritius to spend a semester abroad.

This was made possible through the various exchange agreements that have been established between the University of Mauritius and overseas Universities. A few recent examples are the University of Minnesota, Duluth (USA) and Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.

The University of Mauritius also decided to advertise its programmes regionally and internationally through Mauritian missions overseas, the Association of African Universities and some agencies which deal regularly with the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

The response received was beyond the University s expectations, especially as the University is non-residential. In fact, requests from international students who wished to spend one or two semesters at the University came in increasing numbers.

In all twenty-one new foreign students were offered places and registered on programmes for one semester in addition to the fifteen students who were already following programmes. The students were from the following countries: Germany, Pakistan, India, Seychelles, Austria, Bangladesh, China, Belgium, USA, Botswana, France, Madagascar, Tanzania, Sri Lanka and Mozambique.



The highlight for UoM on the regional scene has been the organisation of the Conference of Rectors, Vice-Chancellors and Presidents of African Universities (COREVIP) in Mauritius from 17 to 21 March 2003. The theme of this Association of African Universities (AAU) Conference was The Role of African Higher Education Institutions in the Building of the African Union. COREVIP 2003 benefited from the attendance of 175 participants from 43 countries, comprising very senior academics and officials from the AAU's 160 member institutions and international organisations such as the World Bank, the Association of Commonwealth Universities and UNESCO-BREDA. The Keynote Address was delivered by His Excellency Dr. Amara Essy, Interim President of the Commission of the African Union.

Another highlight of the year was the partnership which the UoM entered into with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) of India, in view of setting up the School of Advanced Computing with the objective of supplying specialised manpower to the Mauritian ICT Industry. Furthermore, the University has acquired a plot of land at the Ebene Cybercity for the implementation of a Science and Technology Park project which will enhance its capacity to participate in the ICT research and development activities of the country.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, there was a significant delay in the completion of the University Gymnasium Complex. It is now expected that, with the proposed laying of a synthetic sports flooring and the procurement of necessary equipment, the Gymnasium Complex would be operational by April/May 2004.

During the year under review, the construction of the Engineering Tower progressed according to the revised programme of works. According to the consultants, it is expected that the Engineering Tower would be practically completed by June 2004.

STUDENT ADMISSIONS AND ENROLMENT IN 2002/2003

Programmes for the academic year 2002/2003 were advertised in March 2002. A total of 5772 applicants submitted application forms for the various programmes. As usual each applicant was entitled to apply for a maximum of three programmes in one or more Faculties, and the total number of applications received in the five Faculties of the University, the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, the Mauritius Institute of Education and the School of Advanced Computing (SAC) was 12957. The Table below illustrates the position of the University with respect to applications received and new admissions for the past three years.

	2000/2001		2001/2002		2002/2003	
	Applications	Admissions	Applications	Admissions	Applications	Admissions
Faculty of Agriculture	697	145	82	53	380	76
Faculty of Engineering	2513	401	3557	540	3113	486
Faculty of Law & Management	2956	468	3443	474	4141	566
Faculty of Science	1649	334	1458	297	1667	277
Faculty of Social Studies & Humanities	2784	365	2166	328	2785	351
Mahatma Gandhi Institute	300	99	419	74	135	38
Mauritius Institute of Education	36	25	155	83	161	83
School of Advanced Computing	-	-	-	-	575	222
Total	10935	1837	11280	1849	12957	2099

The total number of students enrolled in 2002/2003 on a head-count basis was 5737, 36% of whom followed part-time programmes. Figures 1 and 2 show student admissions and enrolment by Faculty, gender, programme type and programme level.

Figure 1: Admissions and Enrolment by Gender

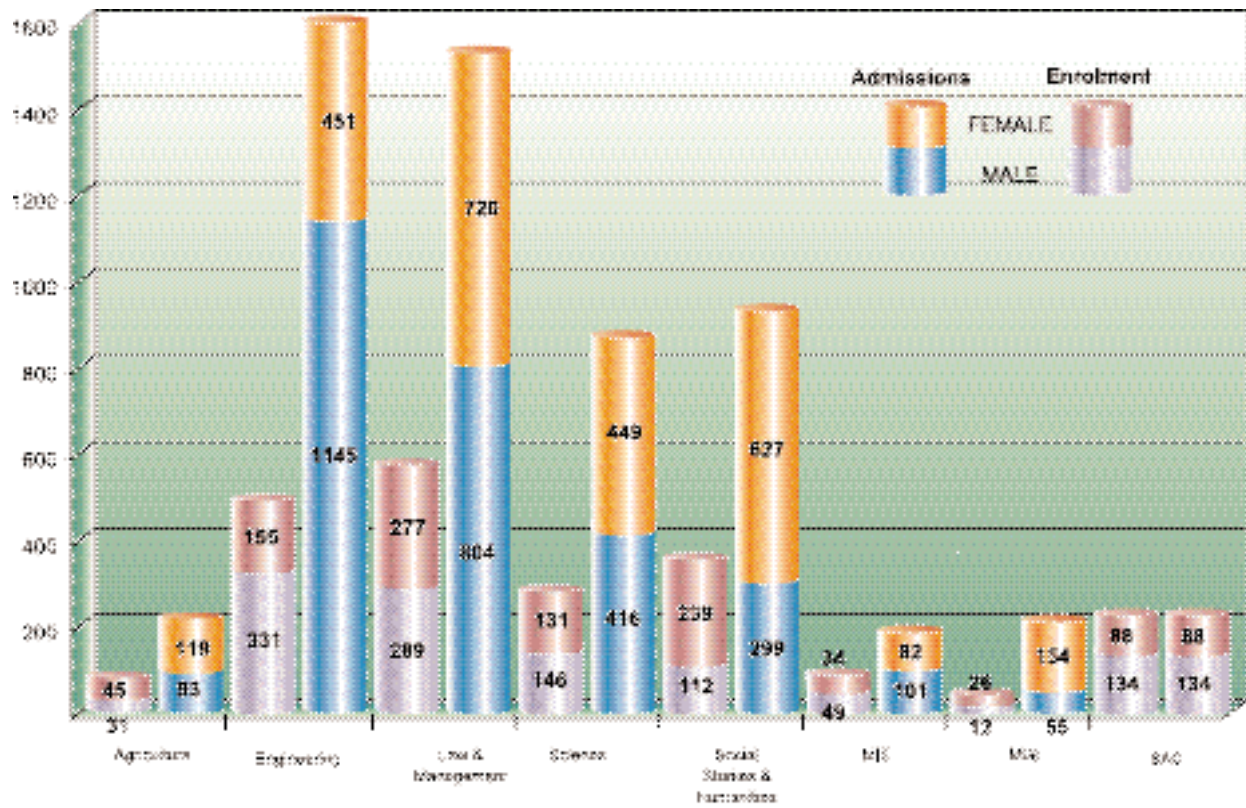
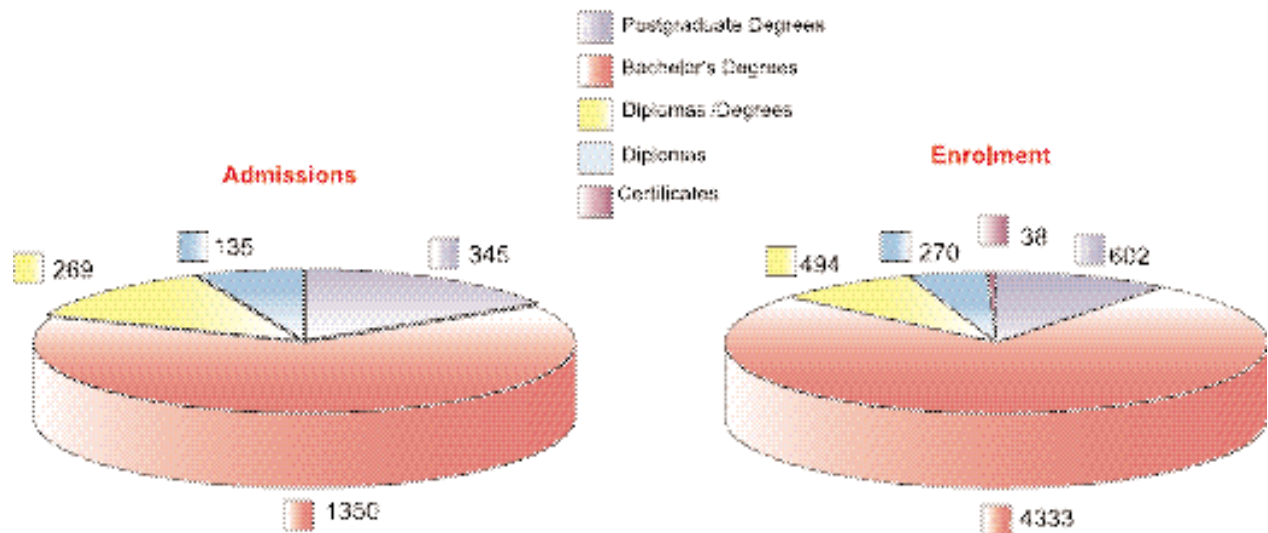


Figure 2: Admissions and Enrolment by Programme Level



STUDENT OUTPUT IN JUNE 2003

A total of 1754 students had successfully completed their programmes by the end of the 2002-2003 academic year. Of these about 12% obtained a postgraduate degree, 78% a Bachelor's degree and 10% a Diploma or a Certificate.

Details of student output are shown in Figures 3 and 4.

Figure 3: Student Output by Gender and Programme Level

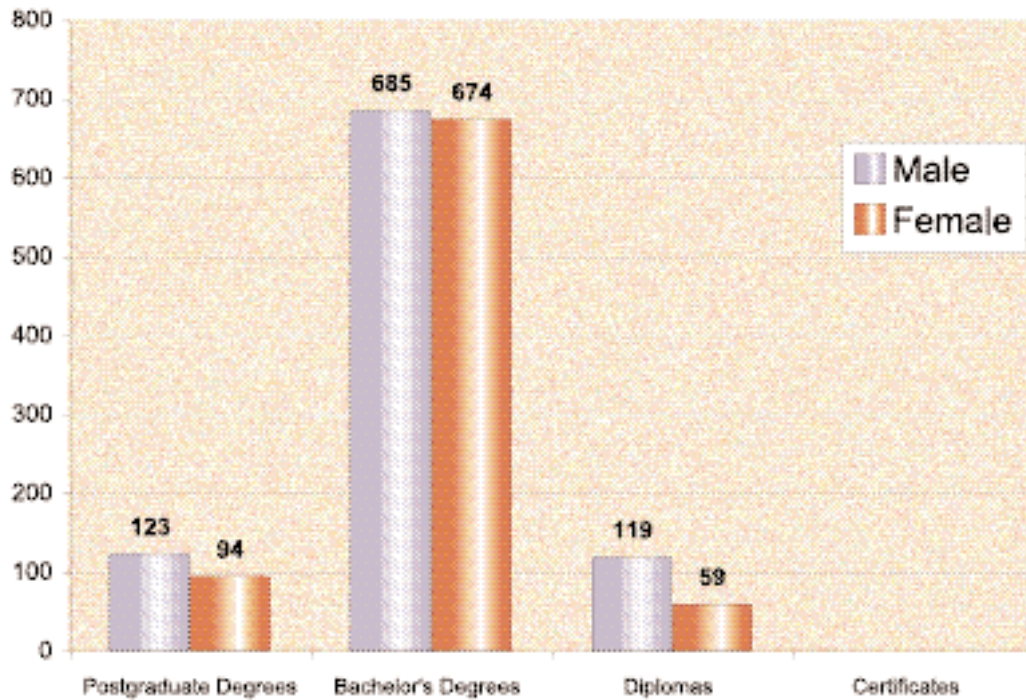
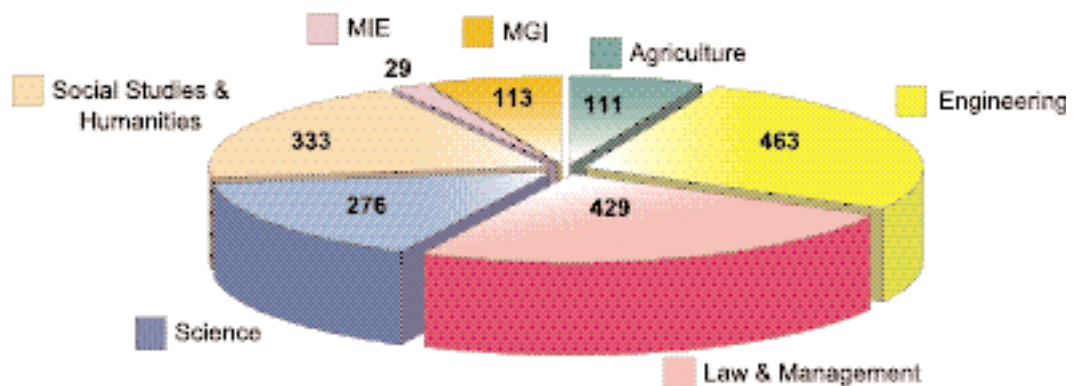


Figure 4: Student Output by Faculty



GRADUATION CEREMONIES

At the Graduation Ceremonies held in September/October 2002 and March 2003, the University of Mauritius conferred altogether 1187 awards, the breakdown of which Faculty-wise, is as follows:

Awards	Faculties							Total
	Agriculture	Engineering	Law & Management	Science	Social Studies & Humanities	MGI	MIE	
PhD	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	5
Master's Degree	-	47	-	23	47	-	-	117
Postgraduate Diploma	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Postgraduate Certificate	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bachelor's Degree	74	244	122	174	188	10	59	871
Diploma	8	4	53	19	12	1	-	97
Certificate	18	-	73	4	-	-	-	95
Total	100	299	248	223	247	11	59	1187

A breakdown of the awards made is given in Appendix II.



The best final year students in the five Faculties were awarded Postgraduate Scholarships for studies at the University of Mauritius. A number of University Bursaries also went to deserving students on the Degree and Diploma streams. Students with outstanding performances received prizes donated by various benefactors and patrons of the University. Details are given in Appendix III.

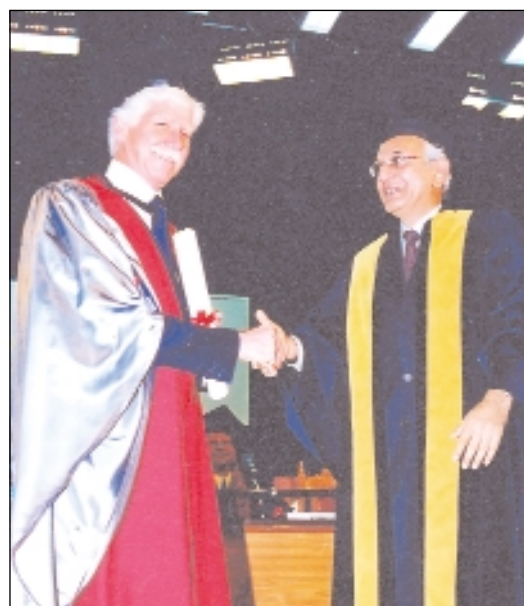
On behalf of the beneficiaries, the University once again acknowledges, with thanks, all the prizes.

At the September 2002 Graduation Ceremony, the title of Honorary Professor in Law was conferred upon the Chief Justice Ariranga Pillay.

During the Graduation Ceremonies, distinguished guests from the business sector and various professions were invited to address the graduates. This year the speakers were Mr S Naidu, Director, Agricultural Research & Extension Unit; Mr D Chaudhary, Chief Executive, Business Park of Mauritius Ltd; Prof. D Ah-Chuen, Chairman, Tertiary Education Commission and Chief Executive ABC Motors; Dr K Guinness, Director of Cardiac Centre, SSR Hospital; Mr R Basant Roi, Governor, Bank of Mauritius; and Mrs J Jeetun, Director, Sugar Investment Trust.

Conferment of Honorary Degree

On 06 March 2003, the title of Doctor of Civil Law, Honoris Causa, was conferred upon Honourable Paul Raymond Berenger, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

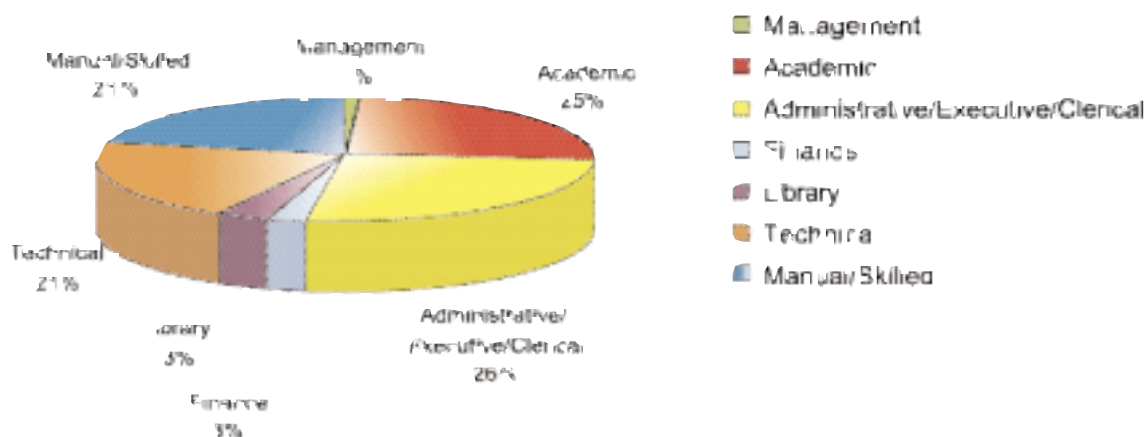


STAFF

As at 31st July 2003, the staff population at the University was 919, of whom 40% were female. Figure 5 shows the distribution of staff by category. The two largest categories were academic and administrative/executive/clerical.

The recruitment/retention of academic staff remained a major concern for the University. At the beginning of the academic year 2002/2003, 20 academic staff were recruited in various fields. During the year, 13 academic staff either retired or resigned. The number of academic staff in 2002/2003 was 226 compared to 224 in 2001/2002.

Figure 5: Distribution of staff by Category as at 31 July 2003



CONFERENCES/MEETINGS ATTENDED AND VISITS UNDERTAKEN BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

During the year under review, Professor Mohamedbhai attended the following:

- (i) The Administrative Board Meeting of the International Association of Universities, and the International Conference on Globalisation: What are the issues for Universities? , both held at Laval University, Qubec, from 15 to 22 September 2002.
- (ii) The University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP) International Conference , held at the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia from 5 to 12 October 2002.
- (iii) The General Assembly of the University of the Indian Ocean, St. Denis, La Runion from 17 to 18 October 2002.
- (iv) The Second General Conference of University Mobility in the Indian Ocean Region (UMIOR) at Sultan Qaboos University, Oman from 12 to 17 December 2002.
- (v) A meeting of the Conseil d Administration of the University of the Indian Ocean, La Runion from 10 to 11 April 2003.
- (vi) The Assises de la Recherche dans l Ocan Indien held at St. Denis, La Runion from 2 to 3 June 2003.
- (vii) The UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education (WCHE) + 5 meeting and a meeting organised by the International Association of Universities (IAU) on Higher Education for Sustainable Development, both held in Paris, from 21 to 26 June 2003.
- (viii) The Conference on Globalisation with a Human Face - Benefitting All , organised by the United Nations University (UNU) and UNESCO in Tokyo, Japan from 26 July to 01 August 2003