# UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

# SDG REPORT 2024/2025

16

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

**UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS · SDG REPORT 2024/2025**

**SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**

How the University of Mauritius involved students and stakeholders in its governance, upheld integrity and worked with government on law and policy.

## Overview

*The University of Mauritius is guided by its values of respect, integrity, academic freedom, diversity and inclusion, social responsibility and institutional autonomy. Its Court and Senate include elected staff and representatives of the professions, employers, trade unions and the wider community.*

These values and this shared governance shaped the University's work in 2024/2025. Students elected their Students' Union, procurement continued to observe the highest levels of transparency and accountability and Senate approved the UoM AI Policy to provide a framework for the ethical and effective use of AI. Beyond the campus, UoM carried out consultancy for ministries on gender, children's rights, the environment and financial services, its staff served on national boards and committees, and its students graduated in law. The highlights below summarise the year.

### Highlights 2024/2025

1. Students' Union elections held from 18 to 20 February 2025.
2. A clean report from the National Audit Office on procurement methods for the 12th consecutive year.
3. The UoM AI Policy approved by Senate on 7 February 2025, promoting transparency, fairness, privacy and accountability in the use of AI.
4. Five national consultancy projects worth MUR 7.8 million for ministries and a public institute.

## Research on peace, justice and strong institutions

UoM researchers worked on democracy and governance in Africa, human rights, and legal and regulatory frameworks.

- **Democracy and governance.** Assoc Prof (Dr) R B Kasenally was a panelist at Afrobarometer's 25th anniversary and the launch of its flagship report on democracy and governance in Africa (Accra, July 2024), and took part in the World Movement's 12th Global Assembly (Johannesburg, November 2024), the EISA symposium on political transitions in Africa (Nairobi,

December 2024) and a forum on foreign authoritarian influence in Africa (Nairobi, February 2025).

- **Human rights.** An agreement between the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, and UoM. "Conversion Therapy: The new wrong against queer people in Mauritius", Conference on Human Rights in Africa, Pretoria, December 2024.
- **Political institutions.** "Political institutions, democracy, and development in the longue durée", in The Oxford Handbook of the Mauritian Economy, Oxford University Press, 2025.

### MPhil/PhD research

| Researcher | Title |
|---|---|
| Adedamola O A | Improving the Platform Economy for App-Based Transport Workers in Nigeria: Legal and Regulatory Dimensions |
| Habiye Y L | A Critical Comparative Study of Corporate Creditors Protection Legal Frameworks in Tanzania and Mauritius |
| Sookna T | A Critical Analysis of the Right to Health, Protection from Discrimination and to Privacy and an Investigation of Discrimination Against Patients who have recovered from covid-19: The Case of Mauritius |

- **Marine and environmental law.** Miss M V Uppiah – "An evaluation and identification of existing gaps in the Mauritian marine and environmental laws and their relevance in protecting marine ecosystems and resources based on a scientific approach", HEC 2024.

## University governance measures

Students elect their Students' Union, staff are elected to Senate, and the Court includes members from the professions, employers, trade unions and the community.

### Elected representation and Students' Union

- **Students' Union elections.** Held from 18 to 20 February 2025. The Executive Committee for 2024/2025 was proclaimed on 20 February 2025.

The Admissions and Student Records Office organises the elections, with a UoM staff member as Returning Officer.

- **Support for the Students' Union.** An Administrative Officer and an Executive Assistant guide the Executive Committee, club presidents and students on University procedures and process project files for Students' Union events.
- **Students on committees.** The Discipline Committee (Examination and Plagiarism) includes students' representatives. It considered 25 cases of breach of Examination Regulations for a student population of about 8,000.

## Stakeholder participation

- **Court.** Members include representatives of learned societies, the professions, the University Convocation, the Higher Education Commission, MITD, local government, trade unions, employers, the Mauritius Export Association, secondary schools, the Chambers of Agriculture and Commerce, bankers, and each registered staff union of the University.
- **Senate.** Members include three Full Professors elected University-wide, one elected academic staff member per Faculty, and three members from the professional, commercial and industrial sectors.

## Integrity, ethics and academic freedom

- **Values.** Respect, Integrity, Academic Freedom, Diversity and Inclusion, Social Responsibility and Institutional Autonomy.
- **Procurement.** Procurement continued to observe high levels of transparency and accountability. No challenge was received from bidders, and the National Audit Office gave a clean report on procurement methods for the 12th consecutive year.
- **Research ethics.** The UoM Research Ethics Committee ensures high ethical standards in research by staff and MPhil/PhD students. It processed 24 applications for ethical clearance.
- **Student conduct and complaints.** The Student Welfare Office deals with student conduct through its Discipline Committee, and reviews appeals and representations through the Student Academic Progress and Complaints Committee.

### Publication of financial data

- **Audited accounts.** The Report on the Activities of UoM for 2024/2025 includes the University's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025, audited by the National Audit Office, and the composition of its main governing bodies.

## Working with government

UoM carried out consultancy for government, took part in consultative workshops, and its staff served on national bodies.

### Expert advice to government

A sample of consultancy projects at the national level:

| Consultancy project | Value (MUR) | Faculty | Client |
|---|---|---|---|
| Roadmap for a Plastic Free Mauritius | 4,045,000 | FENG | Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change |
| Impact of cultural beliefs, norms and practices on gender roles, gender equality and gender-based violence | 2,195,000 | FSSH | Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare |
| State Reports of the Republic of Mauritius under the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child | 650,000 | FLM | Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare |
| National Review of Beijing Platform for Action | 500,000 | FSSH | Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare |
| Curricula and Assessment Framework – Finance and Technology | 455,640 | FLM | Institute of Technical Education and Technology |

| Consultancy project | Value (MUR) | Faculty | Client |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **7,845,640** | | |

- **Financial services.** Prof (Dr) B Seetanah and Assoc Prof (Dr) B Tandrayen – "An Economic Impact Analysis of the Financial services Sector of Mauritius", Ministry of Financial Services & Economic Planning, 2024.
- **Staff on national bodies.** UoM staff serve as Chairperson of the Town Planners Council and as members of the National Committee on the Water Energy Food Nexus, the Standards Council of the Mauritius Standards Bureau, the Boards of the Central Electricity Board and MARENA, the Consultative Committee under the Fisheries Act 2023, the ICZM Committee (alternate member), the National Ramsar Committee and the National Coordinating Team on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

## Policy and lawmaker outreach

- **Consultations on new laws.** Staff took part in the consultative workshop on the Domestic Abuse Bill (25 September 2024) and the Ministry of Financial Services consultative workshop on the future of the financial services industry (10 March 2025).
- **Meetings with government.** The Vice-Chancellor met the Ministers of Tertiary Education, Science and Research; Health and Wellness; Industry, SME and Cooperatives; and National Infrastructure, and participated as a panelist on the Expert Panel on National Committee on Teaching & Learning & Quality Transformation organised by the Higher Education Commission.

## Neutral platform for debate

- **UoM Model Parliament.** The 3rd edition was held on 9 and 10 September 2024 by the UoM Students' Law Society & Alumni and the FLM Student Representative.