

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

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Office of the Chairperson of Council

April 03, 2018

The Chairperson of Council
Makerere University
Kampala
Uganda

RE: TUITION FEES FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMMES, 2018/2019

Reference is made to the above subject matter wherein the Principal of Makerere University Business School (MUBS) has brought to my attention a letter dated March 21, 2018 from the Academic Registrar of Makerere University to the Principal of MUBS communicating a directive of Makerere University Council on increase of fees for graduate programmes with effect from AY 2018/2019. *(Copy of letter attached herewith for ease of reference).*

As you are aware, increase of tuition fees is a policy matter and the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, 2001 *(as amended)*, herein referred to as the Act, empowers Councils of Public Universities or Public Tertiary Institutions to fix scales of fees and boarding charges. For the case of MUBS, its Council accordingly fixes scales of fees and boarding charges for the institution. Whereas MUBS is a Public Tertiary Institution by law affiliated to Makerere University, it is financially and administratively autonomous of Makerere University.

As per sections 132(1) and (4), MUBS is only affiliated to Makerere University for the conduct of courses leading to the awards of degrees by Makerere University under standards provided by the Act and statutes and regulations made under the Act or as may be agreed upon by MUBS and Makerere University and shall in connection with the awards, jointly conduct examinations leading to awards of Makerere University.

Therefore, the communication from Makerere University Council directing MUBS to revise tuition fees to not less than UGX 5 million and UGX 7 million per annum for Masters and PhD programmes respectively, not later than March 26, 2018 is unlawful and unfortunate. As much as MUBS runs Masters and PhD programmes for the awards of Makerere University, 100% of the tuition fees on these programmes goes to MUBS

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for the basic reason that tuition fees is meant for running programmes and has nothing to do with affiliation.

MUBS as a public institution goes through an extensive consultative process before it can revise fees. This includes undertaking a stakeholder analysis and consulting all key stakeholders that include the government (especially the Ministry of Education and Sports; and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development), the public, MUBS students, alumni, and staff.

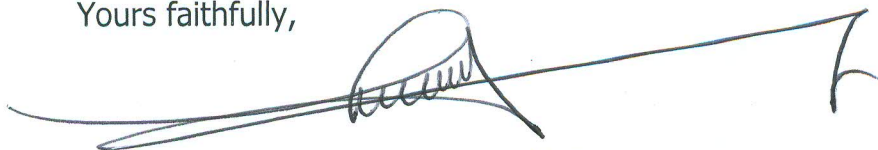
Experience has taught us that abrupt increase of tuition fees at public institutions has always led to strikes by students. Also, MUBS has not been able to recruit the desired number of students on its graduate programmes even at the current tuition fees. Furthermore, other public universities charge less than what MUBS is charging on similar programmes and MUBS is not ready to price itself out of the market. In addition, public education should be inclusive and the proposed fees by Makerere University Council are more likely to exclude the majority of Ugandans who earn less than **UGX 500,000** per month.

Lastly, MUBS gets a government subvention in addition to fees paid by students to enable it run all its programmes. Therefore, MUBS will not be increasing tuition fees on all academic programmes run by MUBS including those for the award of Makerere University degrees in the foreseeable future unless government directs all public institutions otherwise.

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the above position of MUBS Council.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Venansius Baryamureeba, PhD
Chairperson, MUBS Council

Copy to: The First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports
 The Hon. Minister of State for Higher Education
 The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports
 The Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Treasury, Ministry of Finance,
 Planning and Economic Development
 Vice Chancellor, Makerere University
 Principal, MUBS
 Academic Registrar, Makerere University
 School Secretary, MUBS