

## RHODES UNIVERSITY

### REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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*The year under review was an extremely busy and significant one characterized in the main by review and audit activities in addition to the normal core business of teaching, research and community service.*

*The University conducted one of its periodic reviews of academic departments. Every department was reviewed within the space of a few months. This time consuming exercise, which required departments to prepare and present self-evaluation portfolios, contributed greatly to a self-evaluation process in which the University reflected on crucial strategic and operational issues. The outcome was, inter alia, the approval by Senate and Council of a number of new academic posts, the allocation of additional resources and the authorization of further and more detailed reviews of two departments.*

*The departmental reviews constituted an important starting point for the internally appointed Audit Portfolio Committee which was tasked with preparing for an external peer review of the institution by the HEQC. An audit portfolio was prepared which focussed on “the student experience” at Rhodes. The audit took place in September and involved over four hundred interviews of Rhodes staff, students, Council members and others. The final report of the Review Panel has yet to be published.*

*The University continues to do well in its core activities. The student throughput rates are among the best in the country; the per capita research outputs are also among the best and the community outreach activities have continued to grow steadily, with the student volunteer programme, in particular, showing noteworthy progress.*

*Progress has again been made in achieving equity goals, both with regard to the recruitment of students and staff. The rate of change in the registration of Black South African students is especially significant.*

*The collegial, consultative management style continues with regular and useful meetings between the Management Committee and the Deans of Faculty; Management and the SRC and Management and the two trade unions (NEHAWU and NTESU). A “Vice-Chancellor’s Forum” appears routinely on all Senate and Faculty Board agendas.*

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**REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR (continued)**

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*The total income for the University and residences was R418 million. A modest surplus was achieved and the University was able to adjust the academic salary scales in addition to granting the usual cost of living increase.*

DR MS BADAT  
VICE-CHANCELLOR  
Xx June 2006