

Inauguration Ceremony

7 April 2016

Faculty Council Speech

By: Scott Bellows

Chair, Faculty Council



Our Guest of Honor, Dr. Fred Matiang'I (Cabinet Secretary for Education) Chief Justice Dr. Willie Mutunga, Professor Henry Thairu (Chairman of the Commission for University Education), Professor David Some (CEO of the Commission for University of Education), Mr. Linus Gitahi (Chair of the Board of Trustees), Dr. Manu Chandaria (Chancellor), Board of Trustees, Council Members, Management Board, Faculty, Staff, Students and Distinguished Guests.

We as faculty of the United States International University - Africa exist as standard bearers of the ancient and magnanimous tradition spanning over 900 years of inquiry, research, and training next generations on how to sustain and enhance their respective societies. From the University of Bologna and Oxford University founded before the year 1100 all the way to the present age, we stand in the gap promoting rigorous intellectual inquiry.

USIU-Africa holds remarkable impact in boosting the overall quality of education in East Africa as the shining example on standards of excellence, intellectual liberty fostering divergent rather than convergent thinking, and graduating future leaders in all areas of government, business, and civil society. USIU-Africa alumni sit in nearly every board room, government meeting, and diplomatic gathering across the entire region. We thank our own venerable and retiring Professor Freida Brown for working with everyone here to cement our illustrious legacy of which we stand proud and resolute.

Now situated at a crossroads, change proves scary, fear yields anxiety, and stress brings uncertainty. As we look to the future, natural apprehension of transition has turned to

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triumph. Professor Paul Zeleza, following three months of closely working alongside you, your faculty firmly believe that you exist as our best hope to ensure that USIU-Africa fully embodies the noble ideals of liberal educational excellence. Inasmuch, we warmly welcome you to our beloved university and decisively endure with you as you lead us.

We shall toil tirelessly alongside you to foster our approach to learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change. We shall provide students with broad knowledge of the wider world, whether in science, culture, or society, as well as in-depth study in specific areas of their interest. Our liberal education will help students develop a sense of social responsibility, as well as strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills such as communication, analytical and problem-solving talents, and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and strengths in real-world settings.

We firmly know and appreciate our unique role in the dawning African Renaissance whereby there exists no greater calling than training up the next generation of leaders for our vast illustrious continent and the wider world. Thank you for choosing to lead USIU-Africa. The faculty believe in an unlimited, boundless, and abundant future and look forward with great anticipation as you lead us into the changing exhilarating time to come.