



# **BOWEN UNIVERSITY IWO, OSUN STATE**

Dear Parents/Guardians

## **Bowen University, Iwo Governing Council Response to Parents Comments on the 2017/2018 School Fees**

In the past 7 days, the Governing Council has watched with keen interest the conversations that have proceeded on the social media following the announcement of the fees for the 2017/2018 session, which revealed an increment over the fees of the previous session. In addition, members of the Governing Council met with members of the Executive Committee of the Bowen University Parents Forum last Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> August to dialogue over the matter. More important, in the afternoon of Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> August, members of the Governing Council made a tour of the Bowen University Hospital, Iwo, which serves students and staff; and the halls of residence in both the old campus and the new campus to capture the feeling of parents on some of the complaints shared on the social media forum. In the light of above, the Governing Council is putting this missive across to all parents and students of Bowen University to clarify the circumstances of the fees recently announced.

In early 2016, the Governing Council was concerned about the growing deficit on the annual budget of the University and the reliance on bank loans to finance the capital projects and some other costs in the University. Council was of the opinion that for a university that wants to march into the future, the deficit budgets were no longer sustainable. Therefore, in April and May 2016, an exercise was undertaken using financial experts to determine the cost of educating a student in Bowen University for each of the programmes the University offers. The exercise revealed that the University was charging less than the actual cost of educating a student when academic cost, administrative and socials costs are all put together. Partly from the exercise, the Governing Council marginally raised the fees for the 2016/2017 session. Before then, school fees were last increased in September 2013.

Although this provided some respite, it did not solve the budget deficit altogether. The 2017/2018 budget again showed a deficit which again necessitated another slight review of the fees for the 2017/2018 session.

Second, the Governing Council, after its recent inspection of the hostel facilities, noticed the infrastructural deficit and this confirmed its earlier decision to give a facelift to many of the older halls of residence built before 2010.

The Governing Council decided that it is essential to commit additional funds to renovating the older buildings to bring them to the standards of our contemporary times. The facelifts intended include the tiling of the remaining rooms, complete overhauling of the toilet system and more beautification of the environment. The Council will like to assure all parents that renovations and improvements have been done yearly but we need to speed up this task in view of the demand for a world class university standard.

It is also my joy to inform you that the contract for a 288-bed hostel (two in a room) for female students has already been awarded and the Contractor will commence construction within the next few days. Overall, we are assuring our dear parents that efforts will be made to substantially improve on the facilities in the halls of residence before the resumption of students

in late September 2017. Because of the time constraints between now and the period of resumption, whatever is left, will be done during the Christmas holiday.

On the issue of students' health care, the University hospital has six full time medical doctors including a Consultant Surgeon, with 18 nurses, and other ancillary services including regular visits of a Consultant Psychiatrist and a Consultant Haematologist from the Bowen University Teaching Hospital, Ogbomosho. This shows that there are adequate personnel to render quality service to the 4,500 students in Iwo campus. Nevertheless, the University is committing more funds to expand the laboratory services and improve the physical structure of the hospital. We want to inform our dear parents that there is constant referral of students to the Bowen University Teaching Hospital, Ogbomosho surgical and more serious cases at no additional cost to the students and parents. Overall, since its establishment in the late 1920s, Baptist Hospital, Iwo (now University Baptist hospital) has been known for its quality service.

Fourth, the University has taken the issue of water supply with every attention it deserves. The present administration has sunk additional 13 boreholes between September 2013 and November 2016, bringing the total number of boreholes in Iwo campus to 41. Each borehole costs between N580,000 and N620,000, an indication of the huge investment in water supply. The water situation has improved and more efforts are still being committed to water processing and distribution despite the fact that the *sedimentary rock formation* in Iwo which constrains availability of ground water. We will continue with this effort until we meet the needs of the students.

We kindly appeal to our parents for more understanding and to sustain the good image of the University. Some of the information raised and shared are incorrect and capable of tarnishing the good name of the University. The University has never bought a vehicle for any official of the Nigerian Baptist Convention nor the Bowen University Parents Forum. As a people of faith, we cherish integrity, and we continue to build on the legacy of excellence by which Baptists everywhere in the world are known in the provision of education and health care services as a way of sharing God's goodness to all humankind.

As stated in the VC's letter, the Governing Council recognises the imperativeness of parents and students in the existence and success of Bowen University. The University belongs to all its stakeholders and it is our plea that we should be proud of its existence; hence the increment in the school fees is to enable quality and better delivery of services to our students. We have noted the need for improved interface between the Governing Council and BUPAF. In this regard, Council agreed to hold a multi-locational parent forum in various parts of the country.

As is our practice, Bowen University is committed to ensuring that students enjoy high quality education in an environment where they are empowered to develop innovative entrepreneurial skills and contribute to the advancement of knowledge that will promote the well-being of our society.

In the light of the above, the Governing Council makes passionate appeal to parents and guardians to support Bowen University in its determination to maintain a very peaceful teaching and learning environment for its staff and students. Specifically, parents and guardians are advised to counsel their wards to avoid any form of negative information on the social and other media. Finally, our appeal is that parents, students, staff and the proprietor of Bowen University work together to form a united team that will promote **Excellence and Godliness** in the life of our students who in the nearest future will be proud of their alma mater.

**Signed**  
**Governing Council,**  
**Bowen University, Iwo**

**28 August 2017**