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PRESS RELEASE

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ACADEMIC COUP AT UMaT! VICE CHANCELLOR'S POWER GRAB SPARKS CRISIS

The academic community at the University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa, faces a governance crisis that threatens the integrity of the institution. In a petition addressed to the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC) and copied to the Western Regional Minister, I, Assoc. Prof. George Agyei, Head of the Department of Mining Engineering, call for immediate intervention to nullify the proceedings of a Disciplinary Committee that was illegally constituted in violation of UMaT's own Statutes.

This crisis stems from the Vice Chancellor's persistent circumvention of university statutes, undermining democratic governance and creating a climate of fear among lecturers perceived not to be in his favor. This is evident in:

The appointment of individuals perceived as loyalists to the Disciplinary Committee, bypassing the requirement of elected Convocation representation under Statute 39(2)(b).

1. The hasty rescheduling of a Convocation meeting agenda, after the submission of the petition, with a suspicious agenda to reconstitute the Convocation Advisory Board while excluding the Convocation representative from the Disciplinary Committee is a clear attempt to retroactively legitimize an illegal process.
2. The manipulation of promotions, including the illegal processing of Dr Bright Oppong Afum's promotion while on leave, contrary to Promotion Criteria Section 3.6(iii).
3. The granting of leave to Mr Michael Owusu Tweneboah despite his abandonment of duties and the undermining of department recommendations in appointments such as that of Mr Boakye Yiadom.
4. The persistent disregard for formal petitions and the stalling of my own promotion process.

Governance experts emphasize that such administrative overreach violates fundamental principles of university autonomy, transparency, and due process. The top legal governance experts would have recommended the following measures to restore integrity:

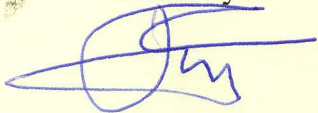
1. Immediate nullification of all actions by improperly constituted committees.
2. Strict adherence to university statutes, ensuring that all committee representatives are duly elected and documented.

3. Transparent processes for promotions and appointments, with departmental input respected and documented.
4. A robust internal audit of governance structures to uncover systemic abuses and conflicts of interest.
5. Disciplinary action against the Vice Chancellor for undermining governance structures and creating an environment of fear and victimization.

I call upon GTEC, the Ministry of Education, and the wider academic community to stand firm in defense of democratic governance in universities. The academic community must refuse to allow any university to slide into a state where due process is replaced with autocratic discretion. This is not only a UMaT crisis, it is a test of the resilience of Ghana's higher education governance.

I remain committed to cooperating with all lawful processes that aim to restore integrity and uphold the Statutes of UMaT. I urge the Council of UMaT to act decisively and transparently to restore trust and ensure that no Vice Chancellor or administrator is allowed to undermine the rights of Lecturers and staff.

Issued by:



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