MR MC BALOYI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: DEAN OF STUDENTS

MR PRINCIPAL & VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF MANDLA MAKHANYA
CHAIRPERSON OF THE IEC, PROF ZODWA MOTSA
THE REGISTRAR, PROF LOUIS MOLAMU
COLLEAGUES AND STUDENTS

Electing an SRC is a noble democratic exercise which each of the twenty three South African universities is expected to undertake. The Parliament of this country has unequivocally expressed this directive through the Higher Education Act, Act 101 of 1997 that every public higher education institution should establish an SRC.

The University of South Africa (Unisa) has just concluded this exercise. In this case, the SRC elections take place bi-annually. These elections were aimed at delivering a vibrant Unisa SRC for 2012 to 2013. This exercise was effectively executed by the Unisa IEC. The Management of this institution received and approved the IEC report on Tuesday, 22 November 2011. The IEC was congratulated for the work well done following a notable increase in the number of votes to almost 20 000 from the just over 13 000 in 2009. Most significantly, the IEC was also commended for having successfully implemented a greener approach and method of voting. For the first time in the history of Unisa and most accurately in higher education South Africa, over 98,5% of the eligible voters voted online.

What remains a challenge though is that about 2000 students told Unisa through the survey conducted by the Bureau for Market Research at the beginning of 2011 that they are not satisfied with the work
of Unisa SRC. They claim that the SRC is not assisting them and/or serving them. They undoubtedly value the existence of the structure but called for servant and accountable leadership.

This means that the incoming SRC should have in the front of their minds that they are expected to hear from students, represent the voice of students and communicate the milestones to students as and when they attend and participate in University decision-making platforms. Unisa students appreciate student leaders who lead. They want student leaders who prioritize their learning and knowledge enhancement needs and places at secondary level personal gains. Student Affairs Department will do everything in its ability to assist the incoming SRC to live up to the expectations of its electorates. We are well aware that Unisa is not Hollywood, therefore we do not expect celebrities but dynamic student leaders who will embrace the call to serve, appreciate University support and respect the mandate from the masses of Unisa students, and ensure the prevalence of excellence with integrity as they lead and serve Unisa students.

This is the announcement of election results ceremony. I invite you all to sit back and marvel at the manner in which the IEC will deliver the announcement.

THANK YOU.