



6th January, 2022

Esteemed Students and Staff,
Cavendish University Uganda (CUU)

Re: New Year Message for Students and Staff

1. Welcome!

On behalf of Management, I wish to congratulate you upon successfully completing last year (2021) and to wish you a productive and prosperous new year of 2022. Last year was the second calendar year to be spent with the Covid-19 pandemic. Fortunately, CUU went through it successfully by God's grace and your own hard work and commitment. Thank you for demonstrating resilience and ability to innovate quick solutions to abrupt challenges that would have curtailed teaching and learning during the time of university shutdown.

This year, the university opened on Monday 3rd January 2022 for the staff but also students who might wish to come for certain services although it is not yet time for classes. **You are therefore welcome to the university in the new year.** Last year, CUU registered several achievements with your contribution and support. Please, refer to my end of year message to staff and students for more details. We lived to the expectations of our theme for 2021, which was: **Technology-enabled Learning, Innovation and Growth.** We know that we can count on you to make 2022 even more productive.

2. Surpassing the pre-pandemic performance

Having kept afloat during turbulent times that crippled many education institutions, it's now time to surpass our pre-pandemic performance in all its dimensions. Therefore, for 2022, our guiding theme shall be: **Surpassing Pre-Pandemic Performance through Innovation, Scholarship and Growth.** For us to achieve this theme, we need to work harder, work more collaboratively and more innovatively. The old saying is, for us, now truer and more relevant: ***If you keep doing what you've always done, you will get what you've always gotten.*** We need to think more creatively how we shall surpass the 2019 performance in aspects of teaching and learning, class attendance, assessment tests, better use of the learning platform, student enrolment (through mainly student and staff referrals), enhancing academic support to students et cetera.

3. Priorities and activities for 2022

Our 2022 priorities and activities are guided by the CUU mission and academic model with the annual theme as the driving spirit. The activities will be oriented to Covid-19 prevention. The following are some of the key priority activities for 2022:

- **Teaching and Learning:** CUU will continue to deliver blended contact classes while maintaining online distance learning because Covid-19 is on the increase. The country is now entering the peak of the 3rd wave of the pandemic. We will strictly adhere to the SOPs for prevention of Covid-19 transmission summarised in the 3 Ws: Wash hands, Watch social distance, Wear the face mask. [Students who have difficulties wearing face masks are advised to study online](#) instead of coming to class to infect colleagues or get infected.

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- **Assessment of Learning:** Please, note that both CATs (1&2) and final exams are compulsory and must be done at the allocated time - CAT1 in week 5, CAT2 in week 10 and final exams in week 15. All students must register in the first 4 weeks. You noticed that students who failed to register were denied permission to sit for the final exams even if they paid fees or had marks for CATs written outside the platform. This will not change going forward. [This year, we will continue to administer online/open book CATs and Final Exams.](#)

- **Provision for those who missed final exams:** Out of student centricity, Management has made a provision for students who missed the December 2021 exams because of non-registration but had paid fees and sat for CATs to take a “May - August term” as a compensatory measure. This is not a permanent provision but a one-off facility. Please, ensure to register in time for the coming semesters.

The students who may have registered but missed both CATs and the final exams will also register for the May-August compensatory term to catch up. This is in keeping with the NCHE regulation on students who register but miss classes.

- **Special and supplementary examinations:** [Supplementary exams were abolished.](#) Students are urged to prepare well, concentrate on studies and utilise peer tutors and online discussion facilities to master the content and pass. Those who fail will retake the failed courses the following semester. [However, there will be special exams for the students who show good reasons for having missed the final exams if they had registered for the August-December semester and sat for the CATs.](#) The concerned students can apply to the Academic Registrar for reopening of their Exam Boards and write the exams [between 15th and 25th January 2022.](#) This way, lecturers will start marking them during the official marking period.
- **Centre for Innovations and Entrepreneurship (CIE):** This year, the university is setting up this centre to act as an innovations hub for incubation of ideas. The Centre will be responsible for jumpstarting and coordinating innovations focused on transforming research and business ideas into innovative products, services and processes that address societal challenges locally and globally.
- **Research Ethics Committee (REC):** This is to be set up and will be responsible for the review of research protocols involving human subjects by both local and international organizations to ensure that human participants are protected. Through the REC, CUU will contribute to stimulating research that meets high standards while ensuring that it is useful to the various communities involved in the different phases of research design and implementation.

Please, remember that classes begin on Monday 31st January 2022 but registration for the semester is already ongoing. Please, register in time. I wish all of you a happy and productive new year of 2022.

Sincerely,

Prof. John Francis Mugisha (PhD, FAIPH)
Vice Chancellor