

**IN THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE SEVENTH
PARLIAMENT OF THE FOURTH
REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA (LIBRARY)

**REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

ON THE

**GHANA COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY BILL, 2020**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Ghana Communication Technology University Bill, 2020 was presented to the House and read the first time on Wednesday, 11th March, 2020.

In accordance with Article 106 (4) and (5) of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana and Order 186 of the Standing Orders of the House, the Rt. Hon Speaker referred the Bill to the Committee on Education for consideration and report.

1.2 The Committee on Education subsequently met and considered the Bill. The Hon. Minister of State in charge of Tertiary Education, Prof. Kwesi Yankah, a Deputy Minister for Education, Hon. Dr. Yaw Osei Adutwum, the Executive Secretary of the National Council for Tertiary Education (NCTE), officials from the Ministry of Education, the Office of the Attorney-General, and the Ghana Technology University College were present to assist the Committee in its deliberation.

1.3 The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Hon. Minister of State, the Hon. Deputy Minister, officials from the Ministry of Education, the Office of the Attorney-General, and representatives of Ghana Technology University College for attending upon the Committee.

2.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The Committee referred to the following documents during its deliberations:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana.
- ii. The Standing Orders of the Parliament of Ghana.

iii. Tertiary Institutions (Establishment and Accreditation) Regulations, 2012 (L. I. 1700).

iv. The University of Health and Allied Sciences Act, 2011 (Act 828).

3.0 **BACKGROUND**

The Ghana Technology University College is a technology oriented institution of higher learning that is committed to providing an educational experience of the highest quality.

The University College was first established in 2005 with the name Ghana Telecom University College. It has its roots in the Ghana Telecom Flagship Training Centre which was the first of its kind in West Africa. The Training Centre progressed rapidly through deregulation and privatisation to become the main source of teaching and certification in telecommunications engineering for Ghana Telecom employees, as well as other institutions in Ghana and West Africa.

The Ghana Telecom University College was granted accreditation by the National Accreditation Board on 30th March 2006 and officially inaugurated on 15th August, 2006. In March 2012, the name of the University College was changed to Ghana Technology University College to reflect the transformation that had taken place and the introduction of new programmes in business and information technology. Since then, it has provided long and short term education and training in information communication technology for diverse stakeholders both in Ghana and the West African sub region.

Currently, the Ghana Technology University College is affiliated to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and technology (KNUST) and the University of Professional Studies (UPSA). It has also signed various collaborative agreements with international partners such as

the Wildau University and Anhalt University in Germany, Aalborg University in Denmark, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Central State University and the Southern Polytechnic State University in the United States of America, Gulin University, Jiagxin University, and Changzhou University in China, Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigerian, and the University of Gabon, among others. These agreements seek to ensure that students of GTUC are provided with cross cutting edge and innovative programmes that are relevant to the socio-economic development of Ghana and the West Africa sub-region.

In recent times, online or e-learning is considered as integral to the learning environment of top universities. In view of this, the Ghana Technology University College (GTUC) is championing the crusade of changing the system of tertiary education delivery in Ghana by using information and communication technology to enhance learning outcomes.

The transformation of GTUC into a fully-fledged public university is therefore meant to provide a legal framework that would ensure that the University is positioned as a viable centre for higher education in Information Communication Technology (ICT).

4.0 PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the Bill is to establish the Ghana Communication Technology University as a public tertiary institution to provide education in information communication technology.

5.0 CONTENT OF THE BILL

The Bill comprises forty-four clauses and is divided into four sections under the following headings:

- Establishment of the Ghana Communication Technology University (*Clauses 1 to 4*).

- Administration of the University (*Clauses 5 to 31*).
- Financial Matters (*Clauses 32 to 38*).
- Miscellaneous Matters (*Clauses 39 to 44*).

Establishment of the Ghana Communication Technology University

Clause 1 establishes the Ghana Communication Technology University as a body corporate with perpetual succession. The aims of the University are spelt out under Clause 2. Clause 3 provides for the location of the main campus of the University and other campuses as may be determined by the Council. Clause 4 empowers the University to award its own degrees, honorary degrees, diplomas and certificates.

Administration of the University

Clause 5 establishes the governing body of the University which is a Council consisting of fourteen persons who will be appointed by the President in accordance with Article 70 of the 1992 Constitution. The functions of the Council are spelt out in Clause 6. Clause 7 empowers the Council to establish standing and ad-hoc committees comprising members or non-members of the Council. A committee made up of entirely non-members of the Council shall be advisory.

Clauses 8, 9 and 10 provide for the tenure of office of members of the Council, meetings of the Council, and the disclosure of any interest in a matter under consideration. Clause 11 deals with the allowances of members of the Council and members of the committees of the Council. Clause 12 stipulates the general powers of the Council.

Clause 13 identifies the principal officers of the University as the Chancellor, the Chairperson of the Council and the Vice-Chancellor. The appointment and functions of the Chancellor are dealt with under Clause 14 while Clause 15 provides for vacancy in the office of the Chancellor. Clause 16 makes provision for the appointment and

functions of the Vice-Chancellor. Clause 17 provides for vacancy in the office of the Vice-Chancellor. Clause 18 deals with the appointment and functions of the Pro Vice-Chancellor.

Clause 19 provides for the Registrar of the University who is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the affairs of the University. Clause 20 makes provision for the appointment of a Director of Finance while Clause 21 empowers the Council to appoint academic, administrative and other staff of the University. Clause 22 deals with the remuneration and pension of staff of the University.

Clause 23 establishes the Academic Board. The composition of the Academic Board is spelt out under Clause 24. The functions of the Academic Board are specified under Clause 25. Clause 26 authorises the Council to make arrangements for the internal organisation of the University. The Student's Representative Council is provided for under Clause 27. Clause 28 provides for the Statutes of the University while Clause 29 deals with the procedure for the enactment of the Statutes.

Clause 30 enjoins the University to have a Convocation. The Congregation of the University is provided for under Clause 31.

Financial Matters

Clauses 32 provides for the sources of funds for the University while the borrowing powers of the University are spelt out under Clause 33. The management of the finances of the University is dealt with under Clause 34. Clause 35 covers the Internal Audit Unit of the University. Clauses 36 and 37 deal with the standard provisions on Accounts, Audit, Annual Reports and other Reports. Clause 38 exempts the University from the payment of taxes, duties and other charges that the Minister responsible for Finance may determine with the prior approval of Parliament.

Miscellaneous Matters

Provisions relating to anti-discrimination are specified in Clause 39. Clause 40 obliges a student admitted to the University to subscribe to the Matriculation Oath and sign the Matriculation Register. Clause 41 provides for intellectual property.

Clause 42 establishes the Ghana Communication Technology University Appeals Board. The interpretation of words and phrases used in the Bill are specified in Clause 43 while transitional matters are addressed in Clause 44.

6.0 **OBSERVATIONS**

The Committee made the following observations during its deliberations:

a. *Need for a Regulatory Framework*

The Committee observed that GTUC has since its establishment in 2006, been at the forefront of providing long and short term education and training in information communication technology albeit without the requisite legal regulatory framework governing its operations.

The Committee noted that GTUC offers certificate, diploma and degree programmes under its three core faculties - Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Computing and Information Systems, and Faculty of Information Technology (IT) Business. The University College also runs a Graduate School which delivers postgraduate programmes in the areas of Engineering, Business Administration, Management and Information Communication Technology. GTUC has over 8,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students, and has its main campus in Tesano and other campuses in Kumasi and Takoradi. It also has a learning centre in Ho, Koforidua and Nungua in Accra.

The Committee further noted that since the inception of the University College, successive governments have appointed Council members to govern the activities of the institution. Currently, GTUC has no Council. The last Council comprising nine members served from 2010 to 2016.

In the light of the above the Committee considers it critical for a legal regulatory framework to govern the operations of the University.

b. *Aims of the University*

The Committee observed that the aims of the University fit into the overall government objective of leveraging on innovation technology to drive socio-economic development, particularly, having regard to the university's ambition of having a viable centre for higher education in technology, and to undertake research in accordance with the following:

- i. Promote education, training and capacity building in academic disciplines.
- ii. Provide global consultancy services to both the private and public sectors.
- iii. Promote basic and applied research.
- iv. Create an entrepreneurial environment that will support innovation and product incubation development.
- v. Foster university industry linkages.

c. *Name of the University*

The Committee observed that with the passage of the Bill, GTUC shall be known as the Ghana Communication Technology University.

Officials of GTUC strongly proposed that the University should preferably be named 'Ghana Technology University' instead of 'Ghana Communication Technology University'. According to the officials, the name 'Ghana Technology University' is more strategic and covers all areas of technology education. Their preferred name puts the University in a better position to offer innovative technology-oriented education in the country, the West African sub region and beyond. They indicated that adding 'Communication' to the name of the University would narrow the focus and scope of the University, with the potential to affect its future orientation and developmental agenda, including programmes relating to emerging trends in technology, artificial intelligence, health informatics and robotics intended to be offered by the institution.

Officials of the Ministry on the other hand, informed the Committee that due to the tendency for public universities to deviate from their core mandate, and pursue unrelated programmes, the use of 'Communication' in the name of the University would ensure that the University focuses on its core mandate.

d. Innovation in Teaching and Learning

The Committee noted that GTUC, in its quest to pursue higher education innovation at both the national and international levels, embarked on a number of initiatives. One of such initiatives is the leveraging of computing and internet technologies to equip graduates to perform effectively and efficiently in today's knowledge economy, and also put higher education within reach of many more individuals, particularly the working adult population.

In this regard, the GTUC established a Centre for Online Learning and Teaching (COLT) which provides leadership and direction in the

transformation of educational practices by strategically integrating digital technologies into teaching and learning.

The COLT has since trained over 100 GTUC faculty members in the appropriate and effective use of multimedia and internet technologies in their instructional practices to produce graduates who are creative, analytical, problem solvers, and possess the requisite employable skills that are required in the job market.

e. Training in Managerial, Technical and other Professional Development Courses

The Committee observed that GTUC offers cutting-edge training in managerial, technical and other professional development courses to individuals from the industry and the corporate world.

Consequently, the GTUC has established the Centre for Professional Development (CPD) and the Centre for Technical Education and Training (CTET). The two Centres have jointly trained over 2,000 Ghanaians in the area of computer networking, website development, software applications, computer security, computer and mobile phone repairs, among others.

The Committee was informed that the innovative and hands-on approaches adopted in training individuals ensures that they are well equipped with the relevant and up-to-date knowledge and skills that would enable them become more useful and resourceful to their employers and the country as a whole.

7.0 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Pursuant to the observations made during its deliberations, the Committee proposes the amendments in the attached Appendix for consideration and adoption by the House.

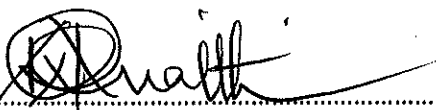
8.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The significance of universities in providing the requisite manpower needs for the socio-economic development of every nation cannot be overemphasised. University education therefore offers an opportunity for individuals to acquire skills and competencies necessary for the labour market.

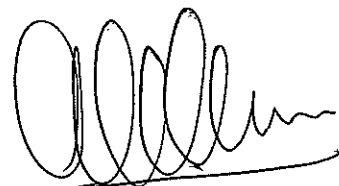
The Committee, after a thorough consideration of the Bill, is of the view that a University with a focus on information communication technology, would produce skilful workforce that would help speed-up the productivity gains of the country. Transforming the Ghana Technology University College into a public-funded university would ensure that the University is positioned as a viable centre for higher education in Information Communication Technology (ICT).

The Committee hereby recommends to the House to adopt its Report on the Ghana Communication Technology University Bill, 2020.

Respectfully submitted.



.....
WILLIAM AGYAPONG QUAITTOO (HON.)
(CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION)



.....
ABIGAIL ABA ANSO
(CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE)

MAY 2020

APPENDIX

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- i. **Clause 2** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (1), line 3, *delete* “principles” and *insert* “objectives”.
- ii. **Clause 2** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (1), paragraph (d), line 2 after “development” *delete* “while fostering university-industry linkages”.
- iii. **Clause 2** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (1), *add* a new paragraph as follows:
“foster university-industry linkages”.
- iv. **Clause 2** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (2), paragraph (b), after “by” *insert* “the”.
- v. **Clause 4** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (2), line 2, *delete* “if” and *insert* “where”.
- vi. **Clause 4** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (2), line 2, *delete* “that proves”.
- vii. **Clause 5** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (1), paragraph (c), line 2, after “Director”, *insert* “nominated by the Minister”.
- viii. **Clause 5** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (1), *insert* a new sub paragraph as follows:
“one representative of the academic staff nominated by the teacher associations of the academic staff”.

- ix. **Clause 5** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (3), line 3, *delete* “gender” and in line 4, *delete* “relevant” and insert “related”.

- x. **Clause 7** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (2), line 2, *after* “advisory” insert “only”.

- xi. **Clause 8** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (5), *delete* and *insert* “The President may revoke the appointment of a member for stated misconduct, inability to perform the functions or for any other just cause”.

- xii. **Clause 9** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (6), line 2, *delete* “its” and *insert* “the”.

- xiii. **Clause 10** - **Amendment proposed** - *Add* a new subclause as follows:

“without limiting any further cause of action that may be instituted against the member, the Council shall recover the benefit derived by a member who contravenes subsection 1 in addition to the revocation of the appointment of a member”.

- xiv. **Clause 16** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (5), line 2, *before* “efficient” *insert* “effective and”.

- xv. **Clause 18** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (3), line 1, *delete* “The” and *insert* “A”.

- xvi. **Clause 18** - **Amendment proposed** - *Add* a new subclause as follows:

“The Pro Vice-Chancellor shall before assuming office take and subscribe to the oath of office and the oath of secrecy as specified in the Schedule.”

- xvii. **Clause 19** - **Amendment proposed** - *Add* a new subclause as follows:
- “The Registrar shall before assuming office take and subscribe to the oath of office and the oath of secrecy as specified in the Schedule.”
- xviii. **Clause 20** - **Amendment proposed** - *Add* a new subclause as follows:
- “The Director of Finance shall before assuming office take and subscribe to the oath of office and the oath of secrecy as specified in the Schedule.”
- xix. **Clause 21** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (1), line 2, after “effective” *insert* “and efficient”
- xx. **Clause 22** - **Amendment proposed** - *Delete* the entire Clause.
- xxi. **Clause 24** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (1), paragraph (c), after “faculty” *insert* “or school”.
- xxii. **Clause 24** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (1), paragraph (g), *delete* “Faculties, Schools”.
- xxiii. **Clause 24** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (2), line 2, *delete* “its” and *insert* “the”.
- xxiv. **Clause 25** - **Amendment proposed** - Paragraph (f), line 1, *delete* “its initiative” and *insert* “the initiative of the Board”.
- xxv. **Clause 26** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (1), paragraph (a), lines 2, 3 and 4, *delete* “Faculties, Schools, Centres, Departments, Institutes, halls of Residence, hostels and other bodies in the campuses in Tesano, Accra” and *insert* “Schools, halls of Residence, Departments, hostels and other

bodies in the campuses in Tesano in Accra, and Centres”.

- xxvi. **Clause 26** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (1), paragraph (e), *delete* “bursaries, exhibitions, scholarships and prizes” and insert “scholarships, bursaries and prizes”.
- xxvii. **Clause 30** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (3), line 1, after “to” *insert* “attend and”.
- xxviii. **Clause 31** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (2), line 1, after “consist of” *insert* “the Chancellor”.
- xxix. **Clause 36** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (2), lines 3 and 4, *delete* “the time and in the manner” and *insert* “a time and in a manner”.
- xxx. **Clause 36** - **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (4), line 2, after “copy of” *insert* “each of” and in line 3, after “Minister” *insert* “and to Parliament”.
- xxxi. **Clause 43** - **Amendment proposed** - Interpretation of “College”, *delete*
- xxxii. **Clause 43** - **Amendment proposed** - Interpretation of “Convocation”, lines 2 and 3, *delete* “Council or Academic Board who are registered by the Registrar” and *insert* “University”
- xxxiii. **Clause 43** - **Amendment proposed** - Interpretation of “independent profit centre”, *delete*
- xxxiv. **Clause 43** - **Amendment proposed**- Interpretation of “Statutes”, line 2, *delete* “the” and *insert* “this”

xxxv. **Clause 43**

- **Amendment proposed** - Interpretation of “Vice-Chancellor”, line 2, *delete* “as the Vice-Chancellor of the University”

xxxvi. **Clause 44**

- **Amendment proposed** - Headnote, delete and insert “Savings”

xxxvii. **Clause 44**

- **Amendment proposed** - Subclause (3), *delete* the entire subclause

xxxviii. **New Clause**

- **Amendment proposed** - Add a new Clause as follows:

“Transitional Provisions

(1) Until the date of the first meeting of the Council and within twelve months of the coming into force of this Act, the governing body of the Ghana Technology University College shall have and exercise the powers conferred by this Act on the Council.

(2) Any act lawfully made or done by the governing Body of the Ghana Technology University College before the coming into force of this Act, shall have the same effect as if done by the Council.”