

BRIEF REMARKS MADE BY PROFESSOR DR. CHRISTIAN NWACHUKWU OKEKE, PRO-CHANCELLOR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, GODFREY OKOYE UNIVERSITY UGWUOMU, NIKE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD OF THE INTER DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH (IDR) HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH, 2022.

1. It is indeed my privilege and singular honor to be part of the launching of another very important academic initiative at this young institution which has become very well-known and popular for such new strides. Introduction of any innovative program in a university is possible where its leadership is intellectually alert, imaginative, and focused.

On behalf of the Governing Council, I congratulate and commend the Vice Chancellor, Reverend Father Professor Dr. Christian Anieke who has been the arrowhead and leader of the management team of our young citadel of learning. He and his able team have brought several innovative academic and administrative programs that animate and enliven intellectual activities for the greater development of our university on very regular basis.

Examples of such innovative programs galore. A few examples should be recounted on this important occasion. They include:

- The introduction of the innovative annual ‘**Vice Chancellor for One Day**’ program, intended to motivate and encourage students to work hard in their studies for purposeful leadership positions through excellent performances in their studies. To qualify, a student must be hardworking with excellent GPA.
 - Recently, there was the **Mentorship Program**, which was formally inaugurated on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. To educate and to emphasize importance of mentorship, two powerful speakers made presentations. Chief Loretta Aniagolu, Managing Partner, FTT CONSULT LTD was a guest speaker who delivered a talk on: “**THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A GOOD MENTOR**’. General Coordinator, Associate Professor, Ekene Osuji iced the afternoon presentations with an important lecture on: “**APPLYING TEACHING METHODS IN MENTORSHIP**”.
2. Today, we are gathered for another history-making session to inaugurate the Advisory Board of an important academic body of the University – IDR.
 3. What is the importance of research, talk more, of interdisciplinary research (IDR) in a university?
 - Main purposes of research are to gather evidence of theories and to contribute to developing knowledge in a particular field of study

- Research on vital topics attract attention, which in turn result in greater visibility and reputation for an institution. These can ultimately result in better ranking and popularity for a University.
 - The promotion of the culture of interdisciplinary research broadens and enriches scholarly knowledge among backward and uninformed colleagues.
 - Three personal experiences must be narrated for illustration. These were when I pioneered as Dean for the establishment of two faculties of Law in Anambra State University of Technology (ASUTECH – 1985-1990), and Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT – 1991-1994).
 - Many people, including supposedly knowledgeable scholars could not understand the rationale for the establishment of faculties of law in those institutions. As a result, I had to face three Government Panels specifically set up for me to justify the existence of faculties of law. The first and second were Professor Agu Ogan and the infamous Justice Okechukwu Ademora Panel for for ASUTECH and Hon. Justice Eze Ozobu Panel for ESUT. I succeeded before the three panels to justify existence of Faculties of Laws within their academic structures.
 - To drive home the importance of interdisciplinary research in a University, I decided to deliver my inaugural lecture as a Professor of Law (three decades ago), on a topic which is slightly detached from my core specialization: **“SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE LAW: THE IMPACT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON LAW” – 9th Inaugural Lecture of ESUT delivered on Thursday 7th May, 1992.**
 - It is important to emphasize the need for staff to master research methodologies and skills very well. **NEMO QUOD NON HABET**
 - A University is about imparting knowledge as well as advancing it.
 - A University is famous because of its prominence for research in certain fields. Consequently, such a university becomes magnet for the students, faculty, grants, media coverage, and philanthropy. University research is very important for both staff and students.
4. I congratulate the Acting Director, Associate Professor, Dr. Christy Onyia who is eminently qualified and experienced to run the directorate. I wish workers of her new department a huge success in carrying out very challenging but important assignments. By the same token, I call on colleagues across board in academic faculties and departments, to appreciate and cooperate to make the IDR innovation successful and pride of Go-Uni. I am very confident that with Dr. Onyia’s academic qualification, wide experience, and support from the University, she should be able to deliver creditably.
5. In conclusion, I propose that the new IDR should consider and examine through research the essence and purpose of hosting traditional Inaugural Lecture series in universities. Interdisciplinary quality of research and Contribution to knowledge should be the yardstick. Godfrey Okoye has done well in this regard.

I am grateful for the opportunity to participate at today's historic event to inaugurate the IDR Board. On behalf of Council, I congratulate and thank members of the Board for agreeing to serve.

Council is very pleased to be supportive of the above laudable endeavors.

6. May I now formally inaugurate the Board of IDR. I congratulate the members on behalf of the Governing Council, Godfrey Okoye University.

Professor C. Nwachukwu Okeke,

Professor of International and Comparative Law,

Director, SJD International Legal Studies,

Director, Sompong Sucharitkul Center for Advanced International Legal Studies,

Golden Gate University School of Law

San Francisco California,

Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council

Godfrey Okoye University, Ugwuomu Nike, Enugu

June 9th, 2022.