

FACULTY OF LAW

Rhodes University

ADVISORY BOARD CONSTITUTION

Preamble

The Advisory Board of the Faculty of Law at Rhodes University is an independent body established at the initiative of Faculty to enable it to implement its vision to be a centre of excellence in teaching and learning, research and community engagement.

The Board has the unqualified support of the University, and its membership is comprised of legally qualified leaders, friends and alumni of the Faculty from the legal fraternity, business, public and private sectors as these sectors are involved in legal services in the broadest sense

About the Faculty

The Faculty of Law is a single department Faculty and the smallest at Rhodes University. The Faculty has sixteen academic staff members who teach courses across the range of Legal Theory, Commercial Law and the LLB curricula. Several staff members also supervise students enrolled for LLM- and PhD-degrees by research. The Faculty prides itself on its undergraduate teaching in Legal Theory and the LLB-programme and wishes to enhance its teaching further and establish itself firmly as a centre of excellence in engaged teaching and learning, and in engaged research that makes a difference in society. The Law Clinic forms an integral part of the Faculty through its community outreach, exposure of students to legal practice and opportunities for engaged research.

About the Board

The Advisory Board was established in 2015 as part of the Faculty's strategy of building closer relationships with leading people and organisations involved in the legal profession, government, business and the private sector as these relate to legal services. The Board meets on a regular basis, either in Grahamstown or in one of the main centres throughout the country, and considers matters pertinent to the Faculty, and in the view of members or the Faculty relevant at the particular point in time.

Members of the Board freely provide of their time, wisdom and experience for the benefit of the development of young legal professionals. In addition, Members endeavour to facilitate the interface of the Faculty, its students and the fraternity in practical ways through guest lectures, student work experience and key research projects.

Objectives of the Board

The Board strives to meet the following objectives:

- to provide a means of building relationships between the Faculty and people and organisations involved in law and legal services, and
- to provide guidance and advice to the Faculty with respect to
 - o developments and needs of the legal fraternity;
 - o trends and innovation in professional practice;
 - o research opportunities;

- o fundraising;
- o trends and innovation in teaching and learning;
- o opportunities for students.

Membership

The Board facilitates greater interaction between member organisations and the Faculty and the University, and its staff and students. It also provides a stimulating forum for the sharing of ideas and for bridging the gap between academe and legal practice in its different guises.

- The initial Advisory Board will be appointed by the Faculty Board following a call for nominations of members on the Faculty website. The Faculty Board will ensure that the initial Board will be broadly representative of the racial and gender composition of society and that a wide variety of interest groups are represented through members from different legal sectors.
- New members will first be formally introduced to the Board; the Chair and/or Vice-Chair will follow up and engage with the nominee, the nominee will provide an abbreviated CV for presentation to the Board. Upon approval, the nominee will be invited by the Chair on behalf of the Board. The Board shall make every effort to ensure demographic representation.
- Membership shall be for a period of five (5) years and Members shall be eligible to be re-elected.
- Members may exercise their right to resign at any time.
- The Board shall limit membership to twenty (20) Members that represent a diverse range of legal sectors.
- If a Member fails to attend any Advisory Board sessions for a period of one (1) year, the Chair may exercise his/her right to terminate the membership.
- From time-to-time Members (with the permission of the Chair) may invite “guests” to attend Advisory Board sessions that can add value to agenda discussions.

Officers

Officers of the Board shall consist of:

- Chair – elected by the Board to serve a period of three (3) years and shall be eligible for re-election.
- Vice-Chair – Dean of the Faculty of Law who shall remain in office for his/her term as Dean.

Meetings

The Board will meet twice a year:

- Meeting 1: in Johannesburg/ Cape Town and typically towards the end of May.
- Meeting 2: in Grahamstown and typically towards the end of October.
- Members shall be advised of the meeting dates at least three (3) months in advance.

Amendments

The constitution may be amended from time-to-time by the Faculty to ensure that the Board meets the Faculty’s needs.