

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
RESEARCH BOARD REPORT FOR 2015**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Research Board assists and promotes Research activities at the National University of Science and Technology and thus acts as a conduit between the Bursar’s Department and Academics regarding funding. It provides Funds for Research and Travel Grants connected with Research and participation at National and International Conferences. In 2015, the Board met four times on dates that were published in the University Diary except on special occasions.

2.0 FUNDING

The Research Board Budget for 2015 was US\$250 000.00 which was 4% of the University’s Operational Budget. The Board allocated US\$109 590.00 towards the Block Allocation Vote which was 44% of the total budget. The total Research Grant Vote was allocated US\$140 410.00 which was 56% of the total budget and was distributed as follows:

- a) Research Grant Vote was allocated US\$117 328.00 which was 83.6% of the total Research Grant Vote. The Research Grant Vote was further divided into Research Grants (US\$89 828.00), Collaborative Grant (US\$25 000.00) and Research Day Prizes (US\$2 500.00). The collaborative Grant was 10% of the Research Board Budget.
- b) The Travel Grant Vote was allocated \$23 082.00 which was 16.4% of the total Research Grant Vote. Research Board Allocation and Expenditure is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Research Board Allocation and Expenditure

	2015 Allocation (US\$)	Payments (US\$)	Balance (US\$)
Block Allocation	109 590.00	19 668.19	89 921.81
Research Grants	89 828.00	78 331.16	11 496.84
Travel Grants	23 082.00	23 082.00	Nil
Collaborative Research Grant	25 000.00	11 100.20	13 899.80
Research Day Prizes	2 500.00	2 500.00	Nil
TOTAL	250 000.00	134 681.55	115 318.45

Of the total Research Board Vote of 2015, the balance for the Research Grant Vote was US\$11 496.84 which was 12.8% of that Vote. There was a nil balance from the Travel Grant Vote and the Research Day Prizes. The Block Allocation Vote had a balance of US\$89 921.81, which was 82.1% of that Vote. The Collaborative Grant spent was US\$11 100.20, which was 44.4% of that Vote.

2.1 Block Allocation

Table 2 below shows the University staff establishment as in March 2015 and their respective Block Allocations that were awarded to each member per group.

Table 2: Distribution of Block Allocation Funds for 2015

Category of Staff	Professors	Senior Lecturers	Lecturers	Research Fellows
Number	56	20	406	13
Amount	US\$300.00	US\$240.00	US\$210.00	US\$210.00
Total	US\$16 800.00	US\$4 800.00	US\$85 260.00	US\$2 730.00

The Faculty of Industrial Technology utilised the highest amount of the Block Allocation (34%) followed by the Faculty of Communication and Information Science (18.51%), the Faculty of Commerce (17.45%),

the Faculty of Applied Sciences (11%), and the Faculty of Science and Technology Education (4.8%) as shown in Table 3. The Faculty of Medicine utilised the least amount of the Block Allocation (3.2%).

2.2 Research Grants

In 2015, the Research Board approved 18 applications as shown in Table 3. Of these applications, 7 were from female applicants and 11 were from male applicants. The Faculty of Applied Sciences had the highest number of applications and was awarded the highest amount of the Research Grant Vote (51.19%), followed by the Faculty of Commerce (19.48%), the Faculty of Communication and Information Sciences (9.68%), Faculty of Medicine (6.57) and the Faculty of Industrial Technology (6.56%). The Faculty of Science and Technology Education had the lowest applications (6.52%). There were no applications for Research Grants from the Faculty of The Built Environment.

2.3 Publication Fees

There were 7 applications for Publication Fees in 2015 as shown in Table 3. Of these applications, 1 was from a female applicant and 6 were from male applicants. The Faculty of Applied Sciences had the highest number of applications for Publication Fees (4), followed by the Faculty of Commerce (2) and the Faculty of Industrial Technology (1). There were no applications for Publication Fees from the Faculties of The Built Environment, Communication and Information Science, Science and Technology Education, and Medicine.

2.4 Travel Grants

In 2015, 14 applications for Travel Grants to Conferences were approved by the Research Board as shown in Table 3. Of these, 7 were from female applicants and 7 were from male applicants. The highest awards were from the Faculty of Applied Sciences (34.2%), followed by the Faculty of Commerce (32.96%), the Faculty of Communication and Information Science (13.65%), the Faculty of the Built Environment (8.06%), Faculty of Medicine (6%) and the Library (5.13%). There were no applications for Travel Grants from the Faculties of Industrial Technology, and Science and Technology Education.

2.5 Externally Funded Projects

Altogether, there were 9 externally funded projects as shown in Table 4. All the recipients were male. The Faculty of Applied Sciences received the highest grant (42.2%), followed by the Vice-Chancellor's Office (41.39%), the Faculty of Commerce (16.4%) and the Faculty of Communication and Information Science (0.01%). The major external funder was US Embassy which funded the American Corner project (US\$140 00.00). There were no externally funded projects to the Faculties of The Built Environment, Industrial Technology, Science and Technology Education, and Medicine.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Altogether, 39 applications were approved by the Research Board in 2015. The 2015 applications had decreased by 47.3% as compared to those of 2014. The decrease in applications was probably due to the shortage of cash in the Bursar's Department which discouraged researchers from applying for funds. The top ceiling for Research Grants and Travel Grants remained the same as those of 2014 (US\$5 000.00 and US\$2 500.00 respectively). However, despite the shortage of cash in the University as a whole, Research Board Funding contributed in promoting the research culture at NUST.

Table 3: Distribution of Research Board Funds for 2015

BLOCK ALLOCATIONS				
Faculty	*Establishment	No. of Applications	Amount Disbursed	Percentage Disbursed
Applied Sciences	131	13	\$2 164.13	11.0
Commerce	124	17	\$3 431.00	17.45
Com & Infor Science	50	6	\$3 640.00	18.51
The Built Environment	31	9	\$1 793.00	9.12
Industrial Technology	55	14	\$6 687.06	34.0
Sci & Tech Education	25	5	\$945.00	4.8
Medicine	59	3	\$630.00	3.2
VC's Office	6	2	\$378.00	1.92
Library	2	-	-	0
Total	483	69	\$19 668.19	100
RESEARCH GRANTS				
Faculty	*No. in Post	No. of Applications	Amount Disbursed	Percentage Disbursed
Applied Sciences	116	9	\$38 949.68	51.19
Commerce	97	4	\$14 813.00	19.48
Com & Infor Science	42	2	\$7 364.32	9.68
The Built Environment	20	-	-	0
Industrial Technology	44	1	\$4 995.36	6.56
Sci & Tech Education	10	1	\$4 960.80	6.52
Medicine	30	1	\$5 000.00	6.57
VC's Office	6	-	-	0
Library	2	-	-	0
Total	367	18	\$76 083.16	100
PUBLICATION COSTS				
Faculty	*No. in Post	No. of Publications	Amount Disbursed	Percentage Disbursed
Applied Sciences	116	4	\$1 116.00	49.64
Commerce	97	2	\$492.00	21.89
Com & Infor Science	42	-	-	0
The Built Environment	20	-	-	0
Industrial Technology	44	1	\$640.00	28.47
Sci & Tech Education	10	-	-	0
Medicine	30	-	-	0
VC's Office	6	-	-	0
Library	2	-	-	0
Total	367	7	\$2 248.00	100
TRAVEL GRANTS				
Faculty	*No. in Post	No. of Applications	Amount Disbursed	Percentage Disbursed
Applied Sciences	116	5	\$9 863.38	34.2
Commerce	97	4	\$9 506.00	32.96
Com & Infor Science	42	2	\$3 938.00	13.65
The Built Environment	20	1	\$2 324.00	8.06
Industrial Technology	44	-	-	0
Sci & Tech Education	10	-	-	0
Medicine	30	1	\$1 732.00	6.0
VC's Office	6	-	-	0
Library	2	1	\$1 480.00	5.13
Total	367	14	\$28 843.38	100

Table 4: Externally Funded Projects for 2015

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS				
Faculty	*No. in Post	No. of Recipients	Amount Received	Percentage Disbursed
Applied Sciences	116	4	\$144 800.00	42.2
Commerce	97	2	\$55 885.00	16.4
Com & Infor Science	42	1	\$50.00	0.01
The Built Environment	20	-	-	0
Industrial Technology	44	-	-	0
Sci & Tech Education	10	-	-	0
Medicine	30	-	-	0
VC's Office	6	2	\$144 000.00	41.39
Library	2	-	-	0
Total	367	9	**\$340 735.00	100

NB: *No. in Post and *Establishment refer to those members of staff that are eligible to Research Board Funds (Professors, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers and Research Fellows). **Of the \$340 735.00 received from external grants, \$155

735.00 was for Research purposes, \$140 000.00 was for Development (NUST American Space) and \$45 000.00 was for training (Conflict Management).

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