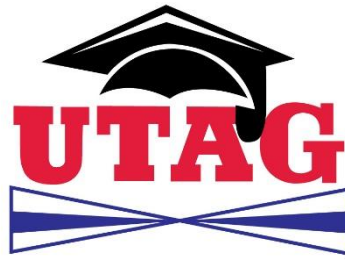


UNIVERSITY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF GHANA

University of Cape Coast Branch

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For Immediate Release
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DEMAND FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF GTEC — AND URGENT LEGAL REFORMS TO PROTECT UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM

University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, 28th January 2026 – The University Teachers Association of Ghana (UTAG), University of Cape Coast (UCC) Branch, issues this press statement in the national interest and in defence of Ghana's tertiary education system. This position was formally adopted at an emergency meeting of the UTAG–UCC Local Executive Council (LEC) held on Monday, 26th January, 2026.

UTAG–UCC reaffirms its commitment to quality tertiary education, accountability, and lawful regulation. However, we state emphatically that regulation must never become coercive control, and oversight must never become an instrument of intimidation, arbitrariness, or the back-door erosion of academic freedom.

1. Our principal demand: Prof. Ahmed Abdulai Jinapor and Prof. Augustine Ocloo must resign or be removed

UTAG–UCC hereby demands the immediate resignation or removal of the Director-General of the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC), Prof. Ahmed Jinapor Abdulai, and the Deputy Director-General of GTEC, Prof. Augustine Ocloo

This demand is grounded in repeated conduct that has promoted arbitrariness, undermined due process, destabilised public universities, and entrenched coercive regulatory practices inconsistent with lawful standards of public administration and university autonomy. UTAG–UCC considers their continued stay in office incompatible with restoring trust, stability, and legality in the governance of Ghana's tertiary education sector.

2. Academic freedom is being undermined through the back door

UTAG–UCC warns that the gravest threats to academic freedom are not always direct. They often occur subtly, through administrative pressure that weakens university autonomy, distorts internal governance, and compels universities to surrender lawful decision-making under fear of sanctions. Academic freedom includes not only classroom independence, but also the institutional capacity to govern teaching, research, assessment, academic planning, and university administration without external coercion

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3. Specific examples of GTEC actions against UCC in 2025 that illustrate arbitrariness and mandate deviation

UTAG–UCC’s concerns are grounded in public record and events widely reported in 2025. These events demonstrate a pattern where regulatory authority was used as punitive leverage, with consequences for staff welfare, academic continuity, and institutional stability.

- a. **Directive requiring the UCC Vice-Chancellor to step aside** on retirement-age grounds (19th September, 2025), escalating a governance issue into a regulatory standoff.
- b. **Imposition of sweeping institutional sanctions** on 22nd September, 2025, including suspension of accreditation processes, salary subventions, GETFund support, book and research allowances, post-retirement contracts, recruitment clearance, and other related approvals.
- c. **Reputational sanctioning**, including treatment of UCC as “non-existent” on GTEC’s portal during the sanctions period.
- d. **Conditional restoration of services after compliance**, reinforcing the perception of coercive regulatory leverage.
- e. **Regulatory actions affecting lawful academic participation**, including matters relating to the engagement of Lawyer Solomon Faakyee, which by their form and effect created uncertainty, chilled academic participation in university governance, and undermined the principle that qualified academics should be permitted to serve their institutions without undue external interference.
- f. **Rigid enforcement of retirement timelines** without regard to the academic calendar, disrupting teaching, learning, research supervision, and institutional continuity.
- g. **Opaque handling of post-retirement contract approvals**, undermining established university procedures.
- h. **Withdrawal of accreditation** for UCC’s MSc and MPhil Customs Administration programmes (8th October, 2025), citing unauthorised delivery mode, an exercise of quality assurance power that must be consistent, predictable, and procedurally fair.

UTAG–UCC further notes that regulatory actions which effectively override or supplant the lawful authority of University Council amount to an unlawful abrogation of statutory governance structures.

4. Act 1023 has created legal space for overreach and must be amended

UTAG–UCC holds the position that the sector crisis is not only administrative but also legislative. Certain provisions of the Education Regulatory Bodies Act, 2020 (Act 1023) are drafted so broadly that they can be exploited to justify coercive regulatory conduct. We therefore call for urgent and targeted amendments to protect statutory university autonomy.

- a. **Section 34 (Access to information)**: must be amended to require written reasons, strict necessity and relevance limits, confidentiality safeguards, and a fair review mechanism to prevent fishing expeditions and institutional intimidation.
- b. **Section 36 (1) (d)–(f) (Criminalisation of non-compliance)**: must be amended to prevent criminal sanctions being used as coercive shortcuts, and to ensure that enforcement is primarily administrative and civil with clear due process safeguards.

- c. **Section 37 (Regulations/LI framework):** must be strengthened to compel the LI to include consultation rules, notice-and-reasons standards, reviews, timelines, proportionality tests, and explicit safeguards for public university autonomy.
- d. **Sections 45 and 47 (Enforcement structure and DG authority):** must be tightened to prevent unilateralism and to ensure directives affecting governance, staffing, or conditions of service disclose Board authorisation and follow published enforcement policy with procedural safeguards.

5. Urgent Government action required: Legislative Instrument (LI) and a Ministerial Policy Directive

UTAG–UCC demands immediate Government action to operationalise Act 1023 properly and prevent further destabilisation of public universities. Specifically, we demand:

- a. Immediate enactment of a robust Legislative Instrument (LI) to guide implementation of Act 1023, clearly defining limits of directives, due process safeguards, and appeal pathways.
- b. Issuance of a binding Ministerial Policy Directive affirming that GTEC is a regulator, not a parallel governing authority over public universities, and that no directive impacting internal governance, staffing, conditions of service, or academic continuity should be issued without statutory grounding and procedural fairness.

6. Notice of action: Industrial action remains a last resort

UTAG–UCC remains open to constructive engagement and lawful dialogue. However, UTAG–UCC hereby serves notice that if Government fails to meet these demands, UTAG will not hesitate, through its internal structures, to deploy all lawful options available, including industrial action as a last resort, to defend university autonomy, academic freedom, staff welfare, and the stability of Ghana’s tertiary education system.

UTAG–UCC calls on all UTAG branches across Ghana’s public universities to join this collective action and defend university autonomy and academic freedom against regulatory arbitrariness. This is a sector-wide threat, not a UCC-only issue, and **therefore, we expect the various Governing Councils of our universities, Vice Chancellors Ghana (VCG) and in deed all tertiary institutions including private ones to join** UTAG speak with one voice to secure a stronger national outcome.

Conclusion

UTAG-UCC emphasizes that this is not a matter of personality or propaganda, but of legality, institutional integrity, and the survival of Ghana's public tertiary education system. We urge Government and Parliament to act decisively, not merely as mediators, but as constitutional custodians of public university autonomy and the rule of law, by enforcing leadership accountability at GTEC and urgently implementing legal reforms to curb arbitrariness and restore trust in tertiary education governance.

UTAG-UCC stands in solidarity with all stakeholders who are committed to safeguarding academic freedom and institutional autonomy. We demand the immediate resignation of GTEC’s Director-General and Deputy by **31st January, 2026**, alongside swift government and parliamentary action to amend the GTEC Act and prevent further abuse of power.

≈ END ≈

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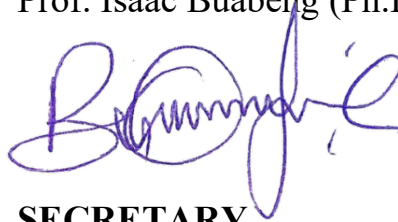
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