



UNIVERSITY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF GHANA

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UTAG–UDS ENDORSES UTAG CALL FOR RESIGNATION OF GTEC DIRECTORS AND DEMANDS RESTORATION OF INSTITUTIONAL AUTONOMY

Tamale, Ghana: **The University Teachers Association of Ghana, University for Development Studies Branch (UTAG–UDS)**, has carefully reviewed and fully endorses the press statement issued by sister UTAG branches, duly sanctioned by the National Executive Council (NEC), calling for the resignation of the Director-General and Deputy Director-General of the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC).

UTAG–UDS aligns itself unequivocally with the concerns raised in the statements and affirms that the actions, posture, and regulatory conduct of the current leadership of GTEC have had direct, adverse, and far-reaching consequences for public universities across the country—particularly multi-campus, trimester-based and development-oriented institutions such as the University for Development Studies (UDS).

Impact on UDS and Similar Public Universities

At UDS, the cumulative effects of administrative overreach, policy inconsistency, and regulatory ambiguity by the GTEC Director-General have manifested in several critical ways, including:

- a) Persistent post-retirement engagement challenges for senior academic staff, including the scrapping of rollover arrangements that have traditionally helped address staffing gaps during active academic trimesters.
- b) Unilateral reassignment of post-retirement approval authority from University Governing Councils to GTEC is in clear violation of established governance norms.

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- c) Systematic erosion of the authority of Governing Councils and Academic Boards, thereby undermining statutory governance structures established by Acts of Parliament.
- d) Restriction/ban on the establishment of new departments and faculties, regardless of institutional need, readiness, or capacity, unless expressly approved by GTEC.
- e) Assumption of excessive discretionary powers by the Director-General, including threats to withdraw accreditation and subvention in response to unresolved administrative and management disagreements.
- f) Overriding of legitimate University Council decisions taken pursuant to mandates conferred by university statutes.
- g) Continuous variation and unilateral alteration of negotiated Conditions of Service, particularly affecting Research Fellows and Librarians, contrary to established labour relations principles.

These challenges are neither abstract nor isolated. For a university legally mandated to pursue community-engaged, problem-solving scholarship in underserved regions, such governance disruptions pose a serious threat to equity, access, quality, institutional stability, and national development outcomes.

On Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy

UTAG–UDS reiterates that academic freedom and institutional autonomy are constitutional guarantees, not discretionary privileges subject to administrative interpretation.

Any regulatory body that interprets its mandate in ways that override university statutes, weaken Governing Councils, and micromanage academic administration acts contrary to both the letter and spirit of Ghana's higher education governance framework.

We share the view that the current leadership of GTEC has blurred the critical distinction between advisory oversight and regulatory authority, resulting in unilateral directives that lack a clear legal basis, procedural fairness, transparency, and due process.



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Call to Government and Stakeholders

In light of the foregoing, UTAG–UDS calls on:

- i. The Director-General and Deputy Director-General of GTEC are to resign honourably in the national interest to restore trust, professionalism, and stability within the tertiary education sector.
- ii. Government to urgently operationalise Act 1023 through a clear, unambiguous Legislative Instrument (LI) to prevent future abuse of authority, role confusion, and administrative excesses; and
- iii. All UTAG branches, staff unions, students, and civil society organisations are to remain vigilant, united, and resolute in the defense of public universities and democratic governance in higher education.

Our Commitment

UTAG–UDS remains committed to constructive engagement, dialogue, and genuine reform. Where institutional integrity, staff welfare, academic freedom, and the future of Ghana's tertiary education system are at stake, UTAG–UDS will stand firmly with its national association and sister campuses.

— END —

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