

# Virtual University of Transformation

## Developing an Implementation Plan



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

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MODEL



# Background

- **SADC Virtual University of Transformation**
- August 2016: SADC 36<sup>th</sup> summit
  - Chairperson of SADC, His Majesty King Mswati III, pronounced that the SADC University of Transformation will be established
- 2017
  - Skills Assessment Needs and Concept paper developed
- 2018
  - SADC officially endorsed the decision and proposed the “virtual” model
- October 2019
  - Correspondence between Hon. Minister for Education & Training and President COL
  - Technical assistance requested
- November 2019
  - Consultant engaged – Dr. Griff Richards

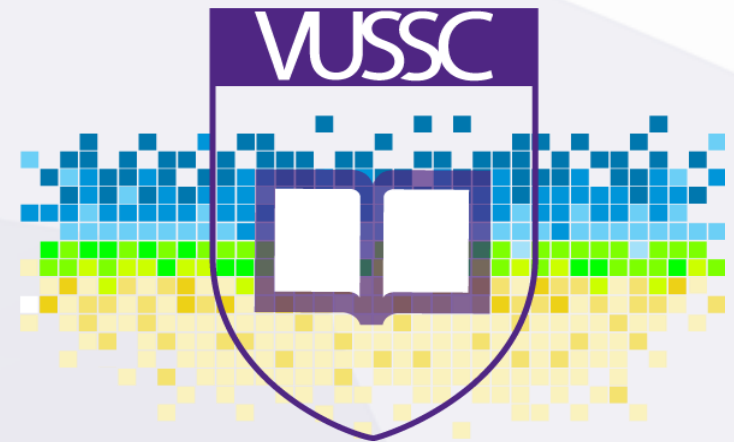


# Background

- **SADC Virtual University of Transformation**
- December 2019 – January 2020
  - Desk study undertaken
  - Draft report prepared
- February 2020
  - Draft report shared
  - Discussion visit planned
- March 2020
  - Deliberations on the draft report and the way forward

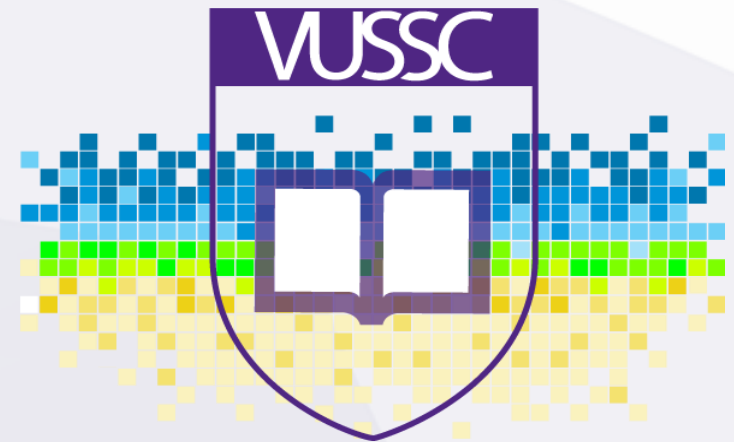
# Models of virtual universities

- **VUSSC**
  - Virtual University of Small States of the Commonwealth
  - Launched in 2000
  - A network of 31 small countries that work collaboratively to expand access to and improve the quality of post-secondary education in their countries.



# Models of virtual universities

- **VUSSC**
  - Virtual University of Small States of the Commonwealth
  - VUSSC supports institutional collaboration in developing and sharing OER, leverages ODL and technologies to address climate change and environmental issues, and supports institutions in adopting and delivering VUSSC programmes
  - Does not offer credentials
  - Develops content/courses for free and open use and sharing between institutions
  - <https://vussc.col.org/>



# Models of virtual universities

- **SVU**
  - Syrian Virtual University
    - Established in 2002 by government decree
    - First online university in the Arab world
    - Started by collaborating with other universities
    - Offering content developed by other institutions
  - Uses print as well as video lectures
  - Synchronous, asynchronous modes
  - All domestic courses are in Arabic
  - Exams are conducted at authorized centers
  - Offer recognized degrees
- <https://www.svuonline.org/>



الجامعة الافتراضية السورية  
SYRIAN VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY



# Models of virtual universities

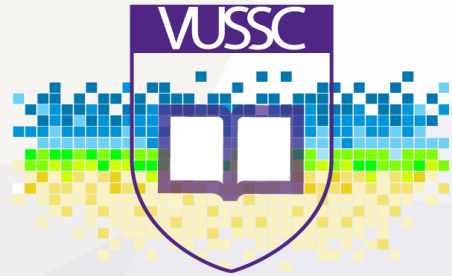
- **VUP**
  - Virtual University of Pakistan
  - Established in 2002 by government ordinance
  - Develops its own courses
  - Works through a custom Learning Management System
  - Uses video lectures
  - Asynchronous mode only (except for blended programs)
  - Courses are in Urdu or English or a mix of both
  - Exams are conducted at authorized centers
  - Offers degrees recognized internationally
  - <https://www.vu.edu.pk>





# Models of virtual universities

- **In depth view**



# Model

What is the way forward?



# STRUCTURE



# University Structure

- **Organogram**

- **Statutory bodies**

- Senate
  - Syndicate
  - Finance & Planning Council
  - Selection Board
  - Affiliation Committee
  - Other committees... (purchase etc.)
- Board of Governors  
Executive Council



# University Structure

- **Academic bodies:**
  - Advanced Studies and Research Board
  - Academic Council
  - Board of Faculty
  - Board of Studies



# Officers of the University

- **Chancellor**

- Vice Chancellor
- Registrar
- Treasurer
- Controller of Examinations
  
- Chief Information Officer
- Chief Learning Officer
- Deans & Directors
- Heads of Teaching Departments
  
- Quality Assurance Officer



# Operational Staff

- **Academic Staff**
  - Regular and Adjunct Faculty
- **Other Staff**
  - Instructional Designers
  - Media Technicians
  - Manager QA
- **Administrative & Support Staff**
  - Staff for each Officer of the University



# Research Focus

- **Initial focus:**
  - Education: Access, Learning, Transfer of Technology
- **Later:**
  - All disciplines





# Transformational Universities

- Open University UK (1969)
- Virtual University of Pakistan (2002)
- Addressed issues of access, affordability, (and quality for VUP)



# Programs to be offered

- Needs assessment / labour market study
- Must prioritize programs
  - promise large scale economic
  - promise societal change
- *Examples*

# Delivery Mode

- Online
- Online with intensive face-to-face sessions for practical skills
- *Examples*

# The Mechanics of Course Delivery

- Synchronous vs Asynchronous approaches
- Tour of a live [LMS](#)



# Structure

What is the way forward?



# ASSESSMENT



# Academic Honesty

- **Balancing requirements**
  - Formative vs Summative assessments
  - Policy
  - Approaches
  - Tools



# Assessment Strategies

- **Perception vs Reality**
- **Case Study**
  - VUP Examination System



# Assessment

What is the way forward?



# QUALITY ASSURANCE



# Quality Assurance

- **External or Expert review**
  - For accreditation
- **Satisfaction Surveys**
  - For improvement of individual courses
- **Quality of a course**
  - Design Issue
  - Iterations will be needed

***\*\*\* Academic quality must always verify that learning outcomes are being achieved***



# Systems Approaches

- **Case Study**
  - [University Management system](#)



# Quality Assurance

What is the way forward?







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