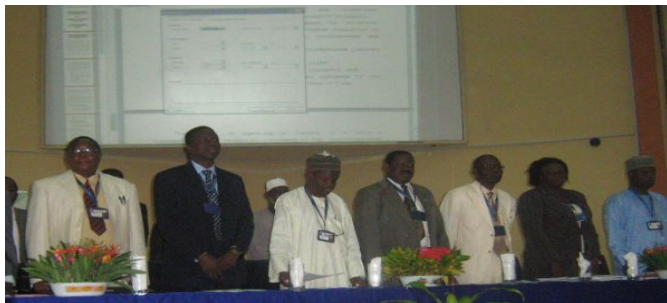


Leave positive marks, DVC tells office holders



IN GOOD STANDING: L-R Prof. Durosaro, Dean of Education; Prof. Ayorinde, DVC (Academic); Prof. Olayemi, DVC (MS); Mr. Sijuwola, Bursar; Mr. Obafemi, DR (Estab.); Mrs. Olowoleni, DR (Academic) and Prof. Oladosu, Director, Academic Planning

A call has been made to all office holders in the University system to leave positive marks after the duration of their tenure as Deans, Directors, Heads or Coordinators.

This strident call was made by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Kolade L. Ayorinde, last Tuesday (September 1, 2009) during the orientation programme/workshop organised for the Coordinators, Heads of Departments, Directors and Deans of the University of Ilorin by the Centre for Research, Development and In-House Training (CREDIT).

According to Prof. Ayorinde, who delivered a paper on “General Academic Duties of Deans, Directors and Heads/Coordinators of Departments at the University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria”, “in order to make a mark, considering the duration of office, it is important that each office holder comes into office with vision and determination or else, the one, two, three, four or six years will just be figures. We should all resolve to leave the office (Faculty, Department, Centre or Unit) much better than we met it”.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor disclosed that leadership position in the university system is a matter of responsibility, recognition and sacrifice, and as such, no material reward is attached other than only being an opportunity to contribute to the development of the system. He revealed further that the University of Ilorin has 64 departments which are housed in the ten faculties of Agriculture (six), Arts (seven), Basic Medical Sciences (seven), Business and Social Sciences (six), Communication and Information Sciences (five), Clinical Sciences (nine), Education (five), Engineering and Technology (five), Law (five) and Science, which has nine departments also.

While urging Deans and Heads of Departments to be familiar with their duties or expectations which he analysed, he especially emphasised the process and procedure of calculating the Grade Point Average (GPA) and Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) which have constituted a challenge to many lecturers. He tasked the participants to be familiar with, hence avoid, what he called “common errors in the computation of results”, which include wrong entries, wrong grade point, wrong multiplication, wrong addition of the grade points, wrong division of the total grade

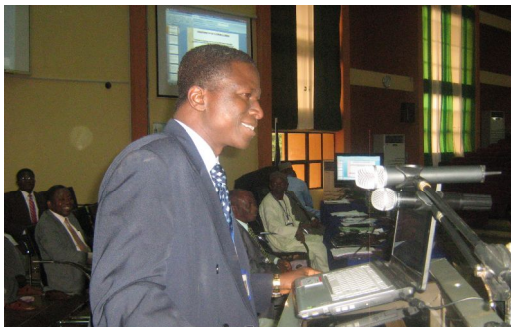
points by the total number of credits, leaving out some courses registered for, especially carry over course, among others.

In her presentation at the programme, entitled “General Administrative Duties of HODs, Coordinators, Directors and Deans”, the Registrar, Mrs. Olufolake O. Oyeyemi, further highlighted the functions of the key officers of the University and identified the Senate as the University itself with its multiple functions on superintending over the general academic affairs of the University. According to her, the Senate organises and controls the teaching of the university, disciplines students, promotes research, awards degrees, allocates responsibilities, etc.



Director of CREDIT, Prof. Abimbola presenting his welcome address

co-presented her paper with the Deputy Registrar (Academic), Mrs. F.M. Olowoleni, the Registrar noted that “the academic staff and the non-teaching staff are partners in progress” serving the same organisational objectives. She further charged participants to provide a transformational leadership that would convert their subordinates to agents of change and progress just as she emphasised the need to follow the “clear-cut procedures” of internal communication, which require that correspondences should pass through the Head of the Department, through the Dean to the Registrar.



DVC (Academic), Prof. Ayorinde, presenting his paper at the programme

The Bursar, Mr. Ayo Sijuwola, who presented the “Processes Accessing and Managing Funds” identified the types of fund that could be accessed within a financial year which is between July 1 and the next June 30, and provided general hints on managing the accessed fund.

According to Mr. Sijuwola, participants must ensure that money is banked before making any expenditure from it, avoid handling too much cash, avoid misapplication/misappropriation of fund, keep proper books of accounts, account for all monies received, ensure checks and balances of operation, among other

Earlier presenting his paper on the “Concepts and Functions of Management in Higher Education” at the occasion, the Dean of Education and Professor of Educational Management, David O. Durosaro, had conceived management as “what you do when you are planning, programming, directing, regulating, financing, staffing, equipping, controlling (personnel, output and time) conducting meetings and communicating with others in an organisation to ensure the achievement of set goals”.

Prof. Durosaro identified the goal of higher education management in Nigeria as the production of highly-skilled manpower in order to achieve rapid national development. He submitted that a higher educational institution like the University of Ilorin is a social system and the dimensions of managing the institution are seven, which he presented in a model of interlocking circles: pedagogical, political, economic, psychological, sociological, bureaucratic and philosophical.

The Dean of Education noted that the nature of academic governance in the University system requires that strict legal boundaries guiding the functions and roles of various organs be clearly studied and strictly obeyed and enjoined modern managers of Higher Education institutions to change with time in order not to be “off the world map”. A sound manager, he concluded, “must be able to discern between facts and fallacy, doubt and dogma, double-thinking and double-talking within this framework of the peculiarities in higher education management in Nigeria.”

Speaking with *Unilorin Bulletin* after the programme, one of the participants and acting Head of English Department, Dr. (Mrs) Victoria A. Alabi, described the orientation as “a very good interaction, reminder and reinforcement.” She said it was additional knowledge for the old hands and a timely workshop for the new ones. According to her, “the documents and the salient comments arising from the programme should be made into a ready handbook” while she suggested that the seminar should be conducted yearly.