GUIDELINES FOR
PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION OF
INAUGURAL LECTURES

2017 - 2021
University Fundamental Statements

Vision Statement
The Vision of Kenyatta University is to be a dynamic, inclusive and competitive centre of excellence in teaching, learning, research and service to humanity.

Mission Statement
The Mission of Kenyatta University is to provide quality education and training, promote scholarship, service, innovation and creativity and inculcate moral values for sustainable individual and societal development.

Identity Statement
Kenyatta University is a community of scholars committed to the generation and dissemination of knowledge and cultivation of wisdom for the welfare of society.

Core Values
Truth, Creativity, Excellence, Self Reliance, Innovation, Equal Opportunity, Corporate Governance, Institutional Culture, Competitiveness, Academic Freedom and Respect for Diversity

Philosophy Statement
Sensitivity and responsiveness to societal needs and the right of every person to knowledge.
1.0 Introduction

Kenyatta University, like other world class universities, has made delivery of inaugural lectures a central part of its academic calendar and university academic life. Inaugural lectures are held to showcase and celebrate the University’s new professors before an audience of members of the university community and the general public. In giving an inaugural lecture, the new professor can celebrate an important personal milestone with family, friends and colleagues, old and new. Academic colleagues can also hear about research that is going on around the University.
2.0- Focus of Lecture

The lecture provides a platform for the academic to present the body of research that they have been focusing on during their career providing the key highlights of the individual’s contribution to knowledge, emphasizing the depth of research, knowledge gaps and showing the way to further research. It is expected that the research knowledge that the inaugural lecturer has acquired over the period up to becoming a professor is used to dissect a problem. The inaugural lecture platform cannot be used to disseminate the results of a particular study as done in conferences.

3.0- Preparing the Lecture

The following should guide the professor as he/she prepares for the lecture:

i. Purpose to delimit the subject and focus on its basics
ii. Make use of metaphors or analogies taken from everyday life will facilitate understanding
iii. Give antecedents and relevant breakthroughs, summing-up the current state of science and finalizing with emerging knowledge and fresh perspectives
iv. Refer to concrete examples: have a menu of applications, fall-outs, useful lessons to recall
v. Express one’s scientific stand-point: sharing your experience and views
vi. Balance your content; include examples from research, industry and teaching
vii. Mention former and current contributors to your field
viii. Ensure good quality of audio-visual support (video, slides, beamer, etc.) provide concrete illustration when possible: models, short simulations, etc.
ix. Carry out a mock lecture to rehearse timing, use of supports and presentation skills

4.0- Delivery of Lecture and Diversity of Audience

The target audience is usually diverse comprising of:

i. Informed specialists in related field such as: faculty members from ones or other departments, researchers, assistants, industry representatives, civil servants, students, etc.
ii. Non-informed specialists from further afield such as: journalists, administrative and technical staff, relatives and friends, etc.

5.0- Attire

Inaugural lectures are ceremonial occasions and academic robes are worn by the inaugural professor and the rest of the members of the university management as well as other senior professors in attendance. Other members of the audience are not expected to wear academic robes.

For the inaugural lecture to be successful, its delivery must therefore be balanced so as to address the diverse audience at the same time.
8.0- The Procession

The Inaugural Lecturer shall be led into the hall in a procession that shall be led by the
Vice-Chancellor or her/his nominee, members of the university management and members of
the academic community. The inaugural lectures are normally chaired by the Vice Chancellor
of the University or her/his nominee and a principal of a college or dean of school gives a
vote of thanks. The procession shall leave the Lecture Hall in reverse order, immediately the
Lecture ends and the Lecture script handed over to the Vice-Chancellor.

9.0- During the Lecture

The duration of the lecture is 50 minutes. The Vice-Chancellor or his nominee shall read the
citation of the Lecturer in the first 10 minutes. The Lecture shall be devoid of issues capable
of dividing the audience; matters relating to religion, ethnic bias, gender discrimination, politi-
cal and union inclinations should be avoided.

10.0- Reception after the Lecture

The Vice Chancellor will host a reception after the event to which the family of the newly inau-
gurated Professor, colleagues and other guests are invited. This reception further provides a
networking opportunity for staff from across Kenyatta University and from the external aca-
demic world, offering valuable scope to establish new collaborations and to generate aware-
ness of the value and breadth of our research, innovation and outreach. Towards the end of the reception, a vote of thanks will be given and guests will leave at their
own pleasure.
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