

Prof. Faith Nguru Appointed the Acting Vice-Chancellor



The Vice-chancellor, Prof. Laban Ayiro, has appointed the DVC ARSA, Prof. Faith Nguru as the Acting Vice-Chancellor with effect from

July 12, 2020 to July 17, 2020.

During this period, the Vice-Chancellor will be away attending meetings outside Nairobi County.

Government relaxes restrictions; announces reopening guidelines

On July 8, 2020 the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education Prof. George Magoha issued broad guidelines on resumption of face-to-face learning for the 2020/2021 academic year.

In a circular addressed to all universities and colleges, Prof. Magoha directed vice-chancellors and principals to make arrangements for phased resumption of face-to-face learning. He however clarified that universities will be re-opened on a case-by-case basis subject to compliance with the Covid-19 Guiding Principles issued by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, which he outlined as follows:

- a) Reducing physical contact in learning institutions having fewer learners that may fit in the available facilities to prevent infection of Covid-19;
- b) Social/Physical distancing is the most critical factor in ensuring the safety and health of learners for re-opening of learning institutions;
- c) Handwashing with soap and/or use of sanitizers, wearing of masks and monitoring of body temperature will be the minimum requirements for the health and safety of students;

- d) Reopening of universities should prioritize finalists, post graduates and virtual orientation of newly admitted students;
- e) Government relaxes restrictions; announces reopening protocols Until a vaccine or cure is found for Covid-19, the reality is that the country will have to take measures to mitigate its spread;
- f) To mitigate the effects of Covid-19 and any other disruptions, the university is required to enhance the resilience of the education system by promoting blended and remote learning (e-learning, online and distance learning);
- g) Decisions regarding reopening of the university may change as informed by reports from the Ministry of Health, prevailing circumstances and increased knowledge of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The circular further required that universities should sensitize and train academic and non-academic staff on the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education guiding principles and protocols before resumption of teaching, learning and research.

After reopening, the Cabinet Secretary instructed that universities satisfy the following steps:

- 1) Intervention measures to cater for learners and staff with special needs and disabilities;
- 2) Obtain approvals by the Ministry of Health;
- 3) Ensure that learners have access to the blended learning mode;
- 4) Ensure that staff over 58 years of age work from safe locations;
- 5) Establish technical committees on Covid-19 mitigation to plan and implement the guidelines and protocols;
- 6) The admission and orientation of new students be undertaken virtually before they join university.

The CS further guided universities to continue holding virtual learning and graduations for students who have successfully completed their programmes and met graduation requirements set by their respective Senates.

The circular by the CS for Education followed the lifting of restrictions on inter-county movement by the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta.

In a televised address to the nation on Monday July 6, 2020, President Kenyatta called for a phased reopening of the country as the government moved to relax restrictions on movement into and out of Nairobi, Mombasa and Mandera Counties.

The President however, promised that this will be reviewed should the virus spread widely.

In the meantime, Daystar University will continue to offer classes online to ensure that its Academic calendar is not interrupted.

The May 2020 semester is progressing well; learning is continuing on the eLearning platform and lecturers are in the process of setting exams.

Meanwhile, the University Senate and Management will give guidance on how to progress to the August 2020 semester.

At the same time, plans have begun in earnest for the 43rd graduation ceremony of Daystar University, scheduled to take place on November 13, 2020.

Daystar strengthens Elearning as Government issues reopening statement

In the January 2020 semester, Daystar University recorded 94.79 per cent semester completion by registered students, leaving only about 6 per cent who were unable to take classes online.

This was revealed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Finance, Administration and Planning Dr. Muturi Wachira when the Nation Media Group paid a courtesy call on the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Laban P. Ayiro.

This comes at a time when academic timetables for most universities have been grossly disrupted by government directives issued in mid-March following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in Kenya.

During the January semester, 4,339 Daystar University students were registered to study on its two campuses in Nairobi and Athi River. After March 15 however, the University Senate took a decision to progress the semester on the e-Learning platform.

A survey taken later in the semester showed that 4,285 of the total registered students were actively engaged in online learning while 4,113 sat semester exams from May 4-16, 2020.

The University Senate further took a decision to ensure that the 226 affected students are supported to complete the semester upon reopening. The affected students were noted to have faced challenges with access to internet data and personal laptops.

"I assure all my students that none of you will be left behind. We shall organize remedial

classes and administer special exams for you when we re-open,” said Prof. Ayiro in a subsequent address to students.

Besides offering classes online, the University has also facilitated students and Lecturers to remotely access eLibrary services for research and study.

As part of enhancing the eLearning experience, Daystar is collaborating with mobile phone service providers through the Kenya Education Network (KENET) to ensure that students have access to discounted internet data bundles for e-Learning.

Subsequently, Daystar began its May/July semester with online orientation of new students from May 18-22, 2020. Classes commenced on May 26, 2020 for both new and resuming students.

In an effort to enrich and upscale the eLearning experience for students, the University has recently established a directorate of Open, Distance and Electronic Learning (ODEL), with a full Board. Daystar is also collaborating with Beulah Heights University in Atlanta, Georgia on eLearning.

Nation Media Group Pays Courtesy Call on VC

On Monday July 6, 2020, the Nation Media Group General Manager-Advertising, Mr James Sogoti along with a senior management team paid a courtesy call on Daystar University Vice-chancellor Prof. Laban Ayiro.

During the meeting, both organizations agreed to explore areas of common interest for a mutually beneficial working partnership. A joint technical team will be crystalizing ideas around the partnership.

Mr. Sogoti was accompanied by Commercial Manager Mr. Symon Bargurei, Education Editor David Muchunguh, Business Manager NTV Maryanne Mugami, Business and Sales Executive Anne Ngugi, and Salim Ramadhan from the Finance Department.

The Vice-chancellor was accompanied by the Deputy VC Finance, Administration and Planning Dr. Muturi Wachira, Chief Manager Finance CPA Phyllis Mutua, and Corporate Affairs and Marketing Manager Mrs. Damaris Kimilu.



Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ayiro (middle) with the Nation Media Group GM (Advertising) Mr. Sogoti (second right), Commercial Manager Mr. Bargurei, Education Editor Mr. Muchunguh, Ms. Mugami (Business Manager NTV), Ms. Ngugi (Business / Sales Executive), Mr. Ramadhan (Finance Department); DVC FAP Dr. Wachira, Chief Manager Finance CPA Mrs. Mutua, and Corporate Affairs and Marketing Manager Mrs. Kimilu

School of Communication trains Faculty

On July 7, 2020, the School of Communication held a virtual training for its lecturers on how to prepare course outlines for eLearning.

The training was convened by the Dean School of Communication Prof. Levi Obonyo and facilitated by Deputy ODeL Director, Dr. Caroline Ayuya.



A recent Faculty Training on Open, Distance and eLearning

Prof. Obonyo underscored the importance of the training in sharpening lecturers' skills for the design of online instruction course

outlines. The training was attended by 24 participants.

“The [heaviest] part of teaching is the preparation stage before the semester begins,” said Prof. Obonyo, adding that early preparations were necessary to enable lecturers be ready for the August 2020 semester.

Dr. Ayuya encouraged the faculty to incorporate weekly activities in their course outlines, which should include: introduction/overview, objectives for the week, discussions and assignments.

She advised that even though there is a slotted period on the timetable for each class, the lecturer should engage with students throughout the week by releasing modules at the beginning of the week to enable students interact with it and further engage with the lecturer in the course of the week.

On security of materials uploaded on the platform, Dr. Ayuya assured that the materials are backed up for future use, and lecturers can modify them as needed.

A follow up training will be held on Friday July 10, 2020 for those who missed the session.

In an interview with the Infospot, Dr. Ayuya revealed that last week alone, ODeL had conducted training for the Schools of Communication, Law, Human and Social Sciences, and the Library. The trainings focused on student assessment, exam setting and grading.

In this coming week, she said, the Directorate will focus its trainings on development online content and designing instructional materials.

Dr. Ayuya further revealed that ODeL was planning a student survey to evaluate online interaction between Faculty and students, and encouraged all students to participate.

“The ODeL Directorate promises to give students the best eLearning experience in the country, said Dr. Ayuya.

Also present at the Training was the School of Communication Champion and ODeL Board member Dr. Rosemary Kowuor. Dr. Kowuor has continued to encourage colleagues in the School to reach out to her, any other member of ODeL team or fellow colleagues in the School in case they need help.

She expressed optimism that most of lecturers in her School have mastered how to use the Daystar eLearning and are willing to help others.

Corporate Affairs & ODeL Board Develop Instructional Videos for Students

In the meantime, the Corporate Affairs department is collaborating with the ODeL Board and School Champions to produce instructional videos to guide students on how to easily navigate their way around the eLearning platform.

The first six videos on How to Login and Password Recovery/Change, Taking Quizzes or Exams, Submitting an Assignment, Interacting with Lecturers or Fellow Students, Adding a Course and Checking Grades were facilitated by ODeL Champions namely Mr Anthony Wambua (School of Science, Engineering and Health), Mr. Joseph Munyao (School of Business and Economics), Dr. Martin Munyao (School of Arts and Humanities), and Dr. Jared Menecha (School of Human and Social Sciences).

Three videos have already been uploaded on the eLearning platform for use by students.



Daystar Ethics Review Board to benefit from capacity building grant

The Daystar University Ethics Review Board stands to benefit from a grant worth Euro 499,501 (Kshs 60 million) through capacity building.

The support comes to Daystar courtesy of Prof. Abraham Waithima of the School of Business and Economics.

Prof. Waithima is part of a consortium that wrote and won the grant from the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership. The team put in the grant request through the University of Kigali with Prof. Waithima as the core Principal Investigator.

The project, titled "Consortium for Clinical Research Regulation and Ethics Capacity in the Eastern Africa Region" is coordinated by Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST), and involves six other institutions in East and Southern Africa. It will be implemented in Malawi, Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda.

"I encourage faculty to look out and apply for such grants, you never know," said Prof. Waithima.

The grant aims at strengthening the capacities of Research Ethics Review Boards in the region.

Don successfully defends her PhD Thesis



This week, we celebrate Mrs. Jane Wanjia Ireri-Kimathi from the School of Science, Engineering and Health, for successfully defending her PhD thesis on July 7, 2020.

Jane who was studying at the Catholic University of East Africa (CUEA), is set to graduate on October 23, 2020 with a PhD in Applied Mathematics. Her Thesis topic was Modeling delayed nutrient conversion in a two species competition with

periodic nutrient input. Jane has already published three papers from her work titled: Chemostat model with period nutrient input described by Fourier series (Asian Research Journal of Mathematics), Delayed nutrient conversion for single species periodic chemostat (Journal of Scientific Research & Reports), and Hopf Bifurcation Analysis for a two species periodic chemostat model with discrete delays (Journal of Advances in Mathematics and Computer Science). The papers are co-published with Garesh Pokhariyal and Stephene Moindi of the University of Nairobi.

After her Dean Dr. Martha Kiarie broke news of the successful defense, congratulatory messages began to stream in.

"I was at her defense as a guest and she did a superb job!" exclaimed Dr. Kiarie.

"Such occurrences make me proud and strong! Congratulations!!!" wrote the Vice Chancellor Prof. Laban Ayiro."

"Hearty congratulations Dr. Jane Wanjia Ireri-Kimathi! Well done!!! ...Please share the publications," wrote the Director for Research and Postgraduate Studies, Sr. Prof. Agnes Lucy Lando.

On behalf of the University fraternity, the Infospot congratulates Jane Kimathi.

BEREAVEMENT

This week, we condole with Mrs. Ephrine Ubaga, of the School of Law Library who lost her mother-in-law, Mrs. Regina Kitula, on Thursday July 2, 2020.

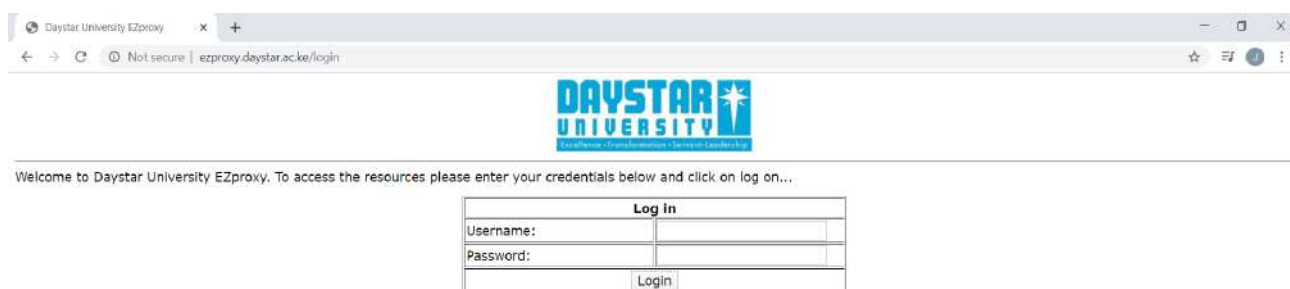
The late Mrs. Kitula has been in and out of hospital since January 2020 when she was diagnosed with cancer. She was laid to rest on Saturday July 11, 2020 in Mutunguni Village in Kitui.

For prayer and encouragement, Ephrine can be reached on 0722 923844.

LIBRARY UPDATES

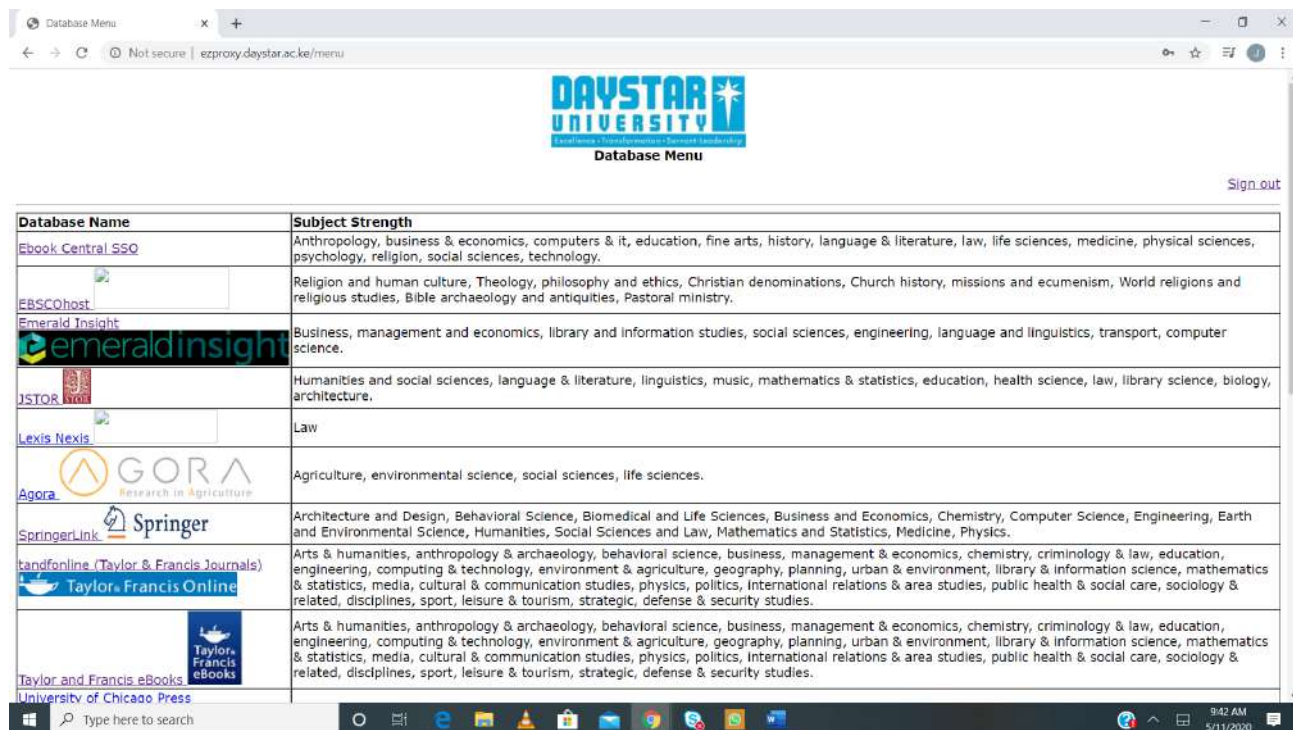
How to access the University Library's full-text digital library (e-books and e-journals) from the comfort of your home, office, or any other location globally

1. Open the link <http://ezproxy.daystar.ac.ke/>
2. Once you open the link, you will be directed to the following login page
- 3.



4. Log in with your assigned off-campus access credentials, which you have already received via your Daystar University email. Please, always use your official Daystar University Email Address.
5. In case you do not have your access credentials, kindly request for the same by sending an email to **library@daystar.ac.ke**. Ensure you indicate your student number and National ID/Passport Number in the email.
6. Once you sign in you will see a database menu: a list of e-book and e-journal databases as shown below:

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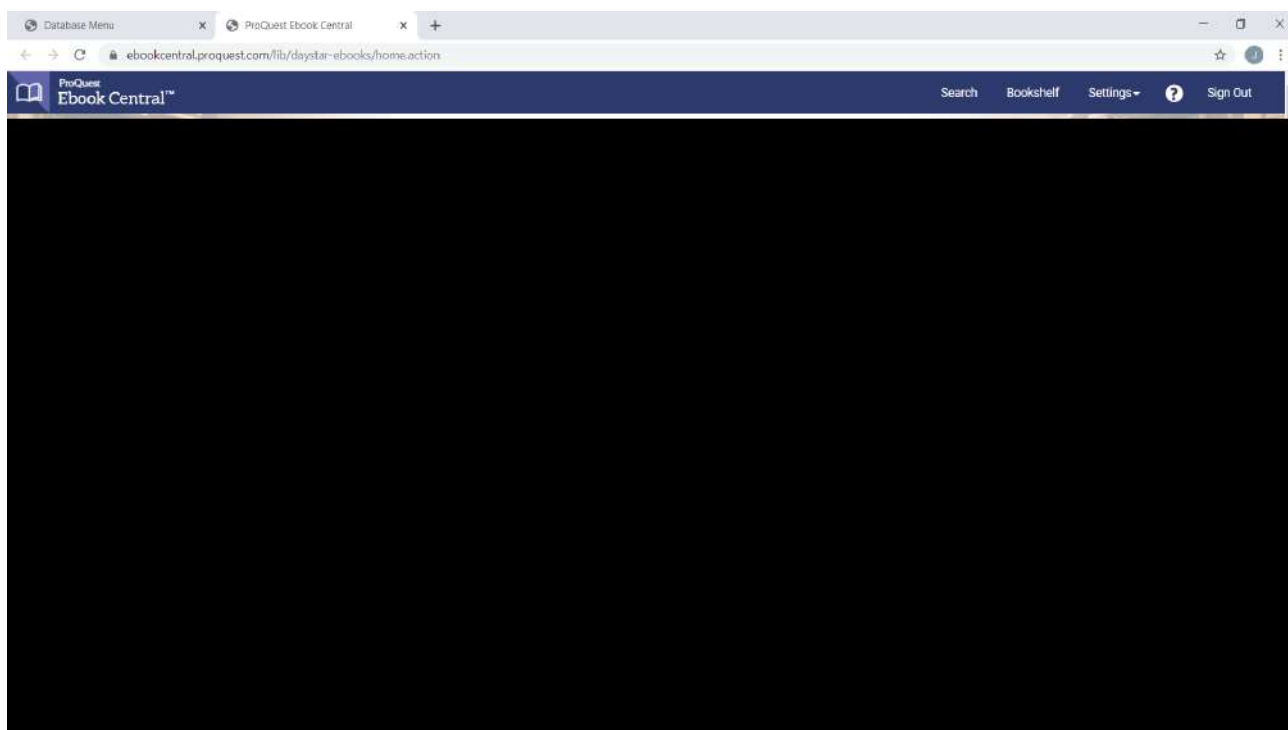


Database Name	Subject Strength
Ebook Central SSQ	Anthropology, business & economics, computers & it, education, fine arts, history, language & literature, law, life sciences, medicine, physical sciences, psychology, religion, social sciences, technology.
EBSCOhost	Religion and human culture, Theology, philosophy and ethics, Christian denominations, Church history, missions and ecumenism, World religions and religious studies, Bible archaeology and antiquities, Pastoral ministry.
Emerald Insight	Business, management and economics, library and information studies, social sciences, engineering, language and linguistics, transport, computer science.
JSTOR	Humanities and social sciences, language & literature, linguistics, music, mathematics & statistics, education, health science, law, library science, biology, architecture.
Lexis Nexis	Law
Agora	Agriculture, environmental science, social sciences, life sciences.
SpringerLink	Architecture and Design, Behavioral Science, Biomedical and Life Sciences, Business and Economics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Earth and Environmental Science, Humanities, Social Sciences and Law, Mathematics and Statistics, Medicine, Physics.
tandfonline (Taylor & Francis Journals)	Arts & humanities, anthropology & archaeology, behavioral science, business, management & economics, chemistry, criminology & law, education, engineering, computing & technology, environment & agriculture, geography, planning, urban & environment, library & information science, mathematics & statistics, media, cultural & communication studies, physics, politics, international relations & area studies, public health & social care, sociology & related, disciplines, sport, leisure & tourism, strategic, defense & security studies.
Taylor and Francis eBooks	Arts & humanities, anthropology & archaeology, behavioral science, business, management & economics, chemistry, criminology & law, education, engineering, computing & technology, environment & agriculture, geography, planning, urban & environment, library & information science, mathematics & statistics, media, cultural & communication studies, physics, politics, international relations & area studies, public health & social care, sociology & related, disciplines, sport, leisure & tourism, strategic, defense & security studies.

7. For each of the databases, a **subject description** is provided

8. Select the database that provides the subject you are interested in

9. This selection will lead you to the database's home page from where you can do your search, for example:



10. Each of the databases provides various search and browsing options

11. If you face any challenges, kindly seek our assistance by emailing us through **library@ daystar.ac.ke**



Chapel Diary

Weekly Chapel

In case you missed this week's Chapel on Thursday July 9, 2020, catch up with the service featuring music by Pastor Safari Paul and Word brought to us by Pastor Rachael Ngugi. Take time to listen from: https://youtu.be/V_59aFfH56Y