

Two-horse race for Nust top job

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The Namibia University of Science and Technology (Nust) has shortlisted University of Namibia (Unam) academics Frednard Gideon and Eroid Naomeb for the position of vice-chancellor.

The two will make public presentations on Monday, 29 November, similar to the recruitment process to select Unam vice-chancellor Kenneth Mutonga in June 2018.

The Nust position was left vacant by the retirement of first rector and vice-chancellor Tjama Tjivikua in April 2019. Tjivikua had headed the institution since its establishment in 1995.

Both Gideon and Naomeb had previously been shortlisted for the top job when the institution ran its first recruitment drive to find Tjivikua's successor.

Also shortlisted at the time were Nigerian national Abraham Ogwu, Botswana national Otlogetswe Totolo and Turkish national Said Irandoust.

A look at the candidates

Naomab has a PhD in chemistry from the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom. He is currently based at Unam's southern campus, where he serves as assistant pro-vice-chancellor.

Naomab completed a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and molecular and physiological biology at Unam. He followed this up with a Master of Science at the same university, which he passed cum laude.

He then did his Masters of Research in strategic resource management at the University of Nottingham. He completed a PhD at the same institution.

Naomab previously served as the head of Unam's chemistry and biochemistry department.

He has also served on the Namibia Standards Institute's environmental management systems technical committee.

Gideon serves as pro-vice-chancellor for academic affairs at Unam's main campus. He is a Unam graduate and associate professor in the department of mathematics.

He obtained his PhD in applied mathematics (banking and finance, risk management and Basel II) from North-West University, as well as a Master's degree in science and mathematics from Rhodes University in South Africa. He completed a Bachelor of Science degree at Unam.

Gideon served as the dean of Unam's science faculty and was the first Namibian to occupy that position.