

From typist to councilor

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Me. Juanita Frans is the newly elected staff representative of the NUST board. She won the majority of votes during a two-day poll among campus staff.

This victory makes her the first woman to hold the post. She is currently the manager of business systems and processes in the IT department.

"I have been with the institution from the beginning - 26 years and eight months to be exact.

"I believe my good understanding of higher education and my experience as part of this prestigious institution have equipped me to serve on the council. Courtesy and healthy professional relationships form the core of the success of any institution and the same goes for NUST," she says confidently.

Frans started working at the then College for Out-of-School Training (later known as the Polytechnic of Namibia, now the Namibian University of Science and Technology, NUST) as a computer typist in the examination department.

SERVING ON COMMITTEES

Over a period of two decades, she took her studies further and promoted herself to a management level.

Asked if there was a pertinent issue she would like to address to kick off her term, she said: "I admit it is a new area I am entering, but determination is in my nature. One issue I would like to address is the appointment of a Vice-Chancellor. This will ensure stability and progress for the university. "

Frans is also the chairman of the executive committee for the Integrated Tertiary Systems (ITS) user group and an executive member of the Southern African Association for Institutional Research (SAAIR). She also represents the staff of the university's pension fund (UNIREF).

"I have always managed to make a contribution to the strategy of my 'avant-garde' university, specifically with the aim of empowering others. Innovation is at the heart of technological institutions, but I believe we should never lose sight of our humanity.

"I have grown by tackling challenges and adventures and I strive to make systems and procedures memorable for others because I love seeing innovative ideas bear fruit," she added.

Frans holds a master's degree in business administration from the Regent Business School in South Africa. In a statement issued by the university recently, the campus community congratulated Frans. "We wish her all the best during her term of office," reads the message.