University of South Africa and its predecessor, the University of the Cape of Good Hope

Chancellors / Vice-Chancellors / Principals from 1873 to 2009

The history of the University of South Africa dates back to 1873, when the University of the Cape of Good Hope was established. Act 12 of 1916 decreed that the University of the Cape of Good Hope was to be incorporated in a federal University of South Africa. The Federal University did not teach, it was merely an Examining Board. When this Act was passed, two other Acts transformed the Victoria College into the University of Stellenbosch and incorporated the South African College in the University of Cape Town. The change was to be effected on 2 April 1918. There was no break in the continuity of the University, despite its new title, but its constitution was radically amended. Control was vested in a Council and Senate, upon which the following six constituent colleges were represented:

- Grey University College, Bloemfontein
- Huguenot College, Wellington
- Natal University College, Pietermaritzburg
- Rhodes University College, Grahamstown
- South African School of Mines and Technology, Johannesburg
- Potchefstroom University College which joined in 1921

With the exception of the Huguenot College, the colleges became independent universities between 1922 and 1951.

Professor Andries Jacobus Hendrik Johannes van der Walt was appointed Director of the Division of External Studies in February 1946. This was the beginning of the University of South Africa as a Distance Teaching Institution. Professor van der Walt remained Director of External Studies until 1953 when he became the first Principal of the University of South Africa.

Chancellors of the University of the Cape of Good Hope from 1876 to 1918

The Hon. William Porter, 1876 - 1880
The Right Hon. Sir Henry Bartle Edward Frere, 1880 - 1884
Henry Howard Molyneux Herbert, the Right Hon. the 4th Earl of Carnarvon, 1884 - 1890
Sir Langham Dale, 1890 - 1898
The Hon. Mr Justice Charles Thomas Smith, 1898 - 1901
H.R.H. Duke of Cornwall and York (later Prince of Wales and His Majesty King George V) 1901 - 1912
Field-Marshal H.R.H. Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, 1912 – 1918
Vice-Chancellors of the University of the Cape of Good Hope, from 1873 to 1918
Sir Langham Dale, 1873 - 1877; 1879 - 1882; 1884 - 1889.
The Hon. Sir Charles Abercrombie Smith, 1877 - 1879; 1905 - 1911
The Ven. Hopkins Badnall, 1882 - 1884
Justice Charles Thomas Smith, 1889 - 1893
The Rev. Canon George Ogilvie, 1893 - 1897
Sir Thomas Muir, 1897 - 1901
The Hon. Sir Ebenezer John Buchanan, 1901 - 1905
The Rev. Prof Thomas Walker, 1911 - 1913
Prof William Ritchie, 1913 - 1916
The Hon. Sir Malcolm William Searle, 1916 - 1918

Chancellors of the University of South Africa from 1918 to 2009
Field-Marshal H.R.H, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, 1918 - 1942
Chief Justice the Right Hon. Nicolaas Jacobus de Wet, 1943 - 1951
Judge President the Hon. Gerhardus Jacobus Maritz, 1951 - 1957
Dr Francois Jean de Villiers, 1957 - 1977
Judge Víctor Gustav Hiemstra, 1977 - 1987
Vacant 1988
Prof Theo van Wijk, 1989 - 1990
Dr Christoph Friedrich Garbers, September 1990 - 2000
Judge Bernard Makgabo Ngoepe, 2001 - 2009

Vice-Chancellors of University of South Africa, 1918 to 1955
Prof Willem Jacobus Viljoen, 1918 - 1922
Sir John Ernest Adamson, 1922 - 1926
The Rev John Daniel Kestell, 1926 - 1928
Hugh Bryan, 1928 - 1930
Dr Nicolaas Marais Hoogenhout, 1930 - 1932
Dr Samuel Henri Pellissier, 1932 - 1934
Prof Marthinus Christoffel Botha, 1934 - 1936
François Daniël Hugo, 1936 - 1938
Senator François Stephanus Malan, 1938 - 1940
Prof Ferdinand Postma, 1940 - 1944
Adv Alfred Adrian Roberts, 1944 - 1946
Dr Herman Heinrich Gerhard Kreft, 1946 - 1948
Dr Albertus Johannes Roux van Rhijn, 1948 - 1952
Prof Stephanus Petrus Erasmus Boshoff, 1952 - 1955

Principals and Vice-Chancellors of the University of South Africa, from 1953 to 2009
Prof Andries Jacobus Hendrik Johannes Van der Walt, Principal, 1953 - 1955
Prof Andries Jacobus Hendrik Johannes Van der Walt, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, 1956
Prof Samuel Pauw, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, 1956 - 1972
Prof Theo van Wijk, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, 1972 - 1988
Prof Jan Casper Gerhardus Janse van Vuuren, Vice Chancellor and Principal, 1989 – 1993
Prof Marinus Wiechers, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, 1994 - 1997
Prof Antony Patrick Melck, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, 1998 (acting) and 1999 - 2001
Prof Nyameko Barney Pityana, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, 2002 -
Sources


University of the Cape of Good Hope Calendars, 1876 – 1917

University of South Africa Calendars, 1918 - 2009

Compiled by
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Updated January 2010