

# Kyambogo University fair on fees, poor on students' welfare

By Stephen Ssenkaaba

Despite all the problems that have befallen Kyambogo University (KYU) over the years, its recent graduates hold it in high regard and still consider it among the best universities in handling personal development, discipline and education values.

This is according to findings from a recent *Vision Group* survey to determine how former university students rate their universities.

Founded in 2001, Kyambogo University is one of the eight public universities in Uganda. It was merged out of the Uganda Polytechnic, Institute of Teacher Education and the Uganda National Institute of Special Education. The university was established by an Act of Parliament in 2003 and is one of the leading public universities.

However, respondents felt the university was not satisfactory when it comes to premises, study arrangement, student welfare and learning resources.

Despite all these challenges, Kyambogo University continues to rise.

## HOW KYU HAS EXCELLED

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Eli Katunguka says Kyambogo's good performance in handling personal development, discipline, teaching staff and tuition fees has been obtained through proper programme review.

"Our programmes, which range from certificates, diplomas, bachelor's and masters degrees to masters are reviewed from time to time. The programme structure is comprehensive and includes a large portion of skills development and vocational training, where students are encouraged to use their hands. This is particularly true in science and engineering and vocational studies. Most of our students and a large part of staff are disciplined and devote a big part of their time teaching the students.

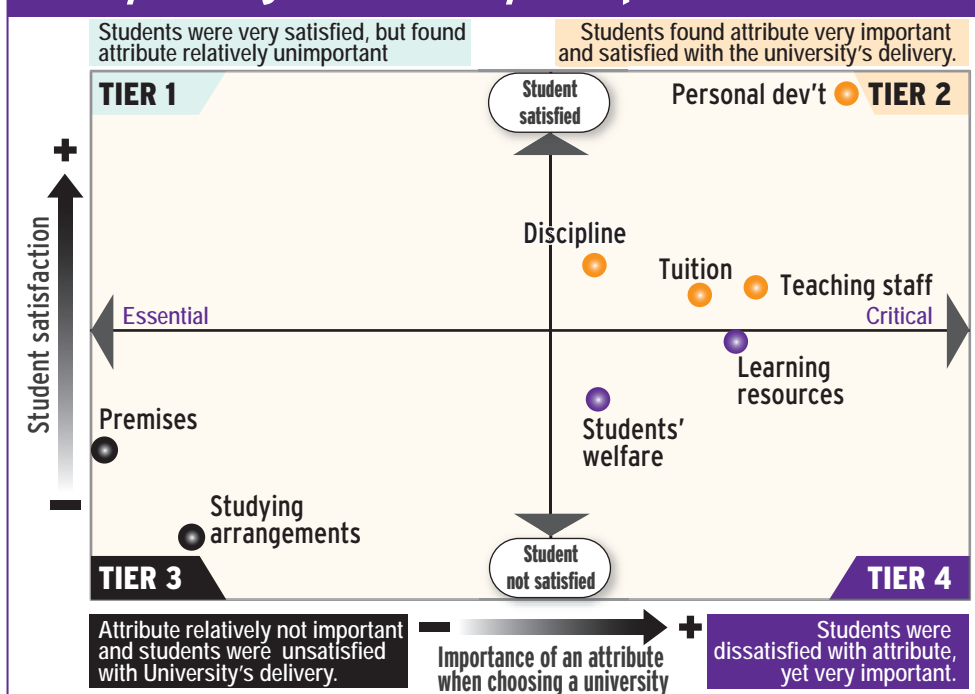
Regarding tuition, Kyambogo university charges the lowest tuition fees across the whole country. This has an effect on the quality of education, but will eventually change. The fees have not been revised for a long time, Katunguka elaborates.

However, respondents said they felt unsatisfied with the university premises, studying arrangements, student welfare and learning resources. Why is the university not doing well on the above?



The Faculty of education at Kyambogo university. The Institution is famous for teacher training

## Kyambogo university competence score



Katunguka

The university has been constrained when it comes to infrastructure for teaching and office space. Since its creation in 2003, no new building has been put up and this, coupled with increased number of students, has caused major shortages of space. However, the situation is likely to change with the recently approved constructions funded by a loan from the African Development Bank.

Major constructions have begun and will completely transform the university. The university does not have a central timetabling facility and this causes some clashes.

## UNIVERSITY PLANS

The vice-chancellor says Kyambogo University is a young institution and there is need to build resources over time. "The university can share electronic library resources with Makerere University and staff may not know of this. The university council has already moved to address some of the concerns mentioned. For example, there is now free internet hotspot on campus, sanitation is improving and there are

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## About the University

### VISION

To be a centre of academic and professional excellence

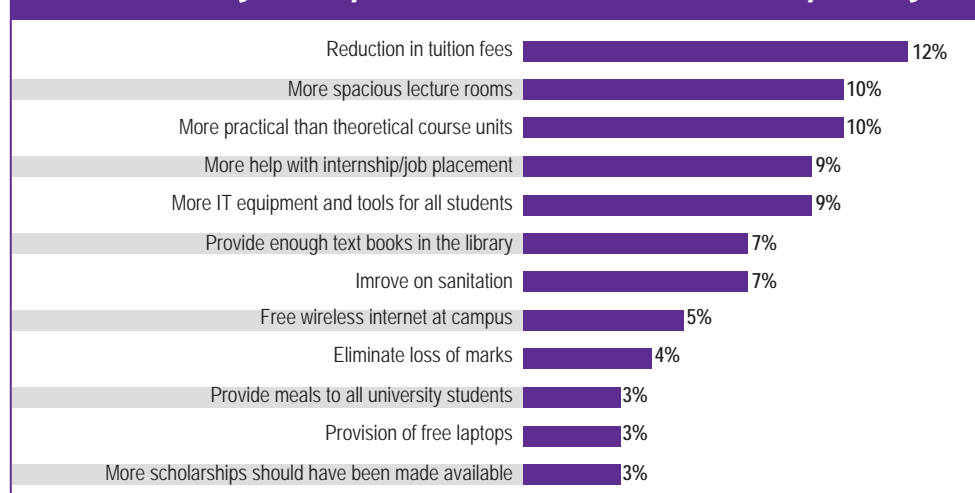
### MISSION

To advance and promote knowledge and development of skills in science, technology and education and such other fields having regard for quality, equity, progress and transformation of society.

### MOTTO

Knowledge and skills for service

## What changes they would have liked to see at Kyambogo



plans to overhaul the sewage infrastructure, textbooks in the libraries are increasing and with more internet bandwidth, information can be accessed.

So, as we go along, most of the shortcomings will be addressed," Katunguka says.

The university has a partnership with Government and the latter is willing to support the institution to become the centre for skilling Uganda and this should come with infrastructure improvement.