The first Unisa internal Moot Court Competition

In September 2002 the Law Faculty hosted Unisa’s first Internal Moot Court Competition. The competition was held at the university’s main campus. The event was a culmination of hard work and dedication by both the Moot Court Committee, which comprised members of the faculty and the students who participated in the competition.

The four participants were elected through interviews conducted by a panel of judges. They were, Ms Noluthando Sigabi, Mr Peter Ngomo, Mr Alusani Tshitamba and Mr Mohale Matsena. The problem posed in this competition centred on current human rights issues which are very relevant in the present African context. These students spent approximately five months preparing for the competition. This entailed weekly training sessions with the committee, where they would discuss the progress of their research into the problem, learn how to prepare the heads of argument for both the applicant and the respondent, and master the art of court etiquette while presenting their arguments.

At the competition the students presented their respective arguments before a panel of judges. The judges comprised senior members of the faculty. During their presentations, each of the competing teams prepared two arguments for the applicants and two arguments for the respondent. There were two members in each team and each one focused on different aspects of the problem.

The students who participated were very committed and hardworking. They sacrificed a lot of time towards their research and training. In the end, they found it to be a challenging yet valuable exercise in that they learnt to do in-depth research into the subject matter and mastered the ability to present their knowledge in a practical situation.

Applications for the second Unisa Internal Moot Court Competition have already been advertised. Students who are interested in participating must send in their applications as soon as possible.

In conclusion, we should like to thank the members of the Moot Court Committee for their hard work and enthusiasm in organising this event.

CHRYSTAL CHETTY