



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

For appointment as members of the Governance Council of the Democratic Governance and Rights Unit at UCT Law.

The Democratic Governance and Rights Unit at UCT's Faculty of Law invites nominations and applications for the appointment of 3 new members of the DGRU Governance Council, which is the primary governance body of the DGRU, chaired by UCT's Dean of Law.

About the Democratic Governance and Rights Unit

The Democratic Governance and Rights Unit (DGRU) is one of Africa's leading research centres specialising in judicial governance. The DGRU is an applied research unit based in the Public Law department of the Faculty of Law at the University of Cape Town.

The DGRU's main objective is on **supporting judicial governance** and providing **free access to legal resources in Africa**.

More specifically:

- Through its solution-driven, applied research DGRU is the leading think tank on judicial policy and governance in Africa, supporting critical thinking on human rights, the rule of law and access to justice.
- Through **AfricanLII**, the DGRU manages Legal Information Institutes across 16 African jurisdictions, providing free access to cases, gazettes and other legal materials.
- In partnership with **Laws.Africa**, the DGRU provides machine-friendly, openly licensed legislation and law materials from across Africa.
- Through **Judges Matter**, the DGRU supports transparency in the appointment, governance and discipline for misconduct of judges and magistrates in South Africa.

- Through hosting the **Judicial Institute for Africa (JIFA)**, the DGRU offers judges and judicial officers certified training and continuous professional development on key judicial skills and human rights, including weekly updates on legal issues across Africa.
- Through its **Women Pioneers Project**, the DGRU is nurturing the new generation of young women lawyers who receive training and mentorships from senior women judges and magistrates, to transform the legal profession.
- Through providing secretariat support to the **Southern African Chief Justice Forum (SACJF)**, the DGRU helps coordinate judicial policy and justice delivery across the SADC region.
- Through its base at UCT's Law Faculty, the DGRU provides practical work opportunities for law students, including internships as **Virtual Research Assistants** to judges across Africa.

You may read more about the DGRU's work on the website: <https://dgru.uct.ac.za>

About the DGRU Governance Council

Duties

The DGRU seeks to appoint three members to its Governance Council for a three-year term starting in 2022 and running until 2025.

The primary function of the Governance Council is to ensure that the DGRU operates, and is able to operate, within UCT as a university-based applied research unit that focuses on judicial governance in Africa through research, training and provision of online legal resources.

Chaired by the Dean of Law at UCT, the 10-member Governance Council is responsible for:

- Exercising oversight of the DGRU's operations, governance, and staffing, in compliance with the University's academic and administrative requirements, in accordance with the DGRU's vision and core business.
- Approving the annual strategic plan and budget.
- Contributing to the development of the operational plan.
- Serving as a confidential sounding board to the director.
- Assisting the Director, on request, with problem solving within the DGRU and in the relationship between the DGRU and the University

- Seeking the advice of the International Advisory Board where needed
- Assisting the Director to ensure the DGRU's place and visibility within UCT.
- Rallying the support structures of UCT to ensure the DGRU remains sustainable within the university.

Profile of Governance Council members

Members of the Governance Council must reflect the breadth of activities undertaken by the DGRU, together with the racial, cultural and diversity of South Africa.

Governance Council members will be drawn from candidates based in South Africa with the following experience:

- Judicial officers from South Africa (both sitting and retired).
- Legal professionals
- Civil society, community, or business organisations with an interest in the Rule of Law.
- Fundraising, resource mobilisation and finance.
- Governance, strategic communications, and stakeholder engagement.

The DGRU is committed to ensuring that all our governance structures strike a careful balance of knowledge, skills, and experience to ensure that these structures fulfil their governance functions effectively and with the appropriate care.

Through exercising their fiduciary responsibility, Governance Council members play a significant role in the life of the DGRU. We expect them to emulate the values of integrity, independence, diligence, and competence.

Meetings

The Governance Council meets twice a year (in person, if funding allows, or virtually) but may convene for additional special meetings as and when the need arises.

In the first quarter of each year, the Council meets jointly with the International Advisory Board.

Secretarial support will be provided by the Director's office.

Remuneration

Membership of DGRU's Governance Council will not be remunerated.

Reasonable travel expenses for DGRU business will be covered by the DGRU.

Nominations and contact

Nominations must be sent via email to Ms Vanja Karth on vanja.karth@uct.ac.za

Nominations must contain:

- For nominators: Full name, affiliation, e-mail address, cell phone number and a one-page motivation of why you believe the nominee is suitable to be on the DGRU Governance Council.
- For nominees: acceptance of nomination, full name, CV, and references
- For applicants: full name, CV, email address and a one-page motivation of why you believe you would be suitable to be on the DGRU Governance Council.

The closing date for applications/nominations is Friday, **4 March 2022**.

Successful candidates will be invited to a one-on-one virtual meeting with the DGRU team by **30 March 2022**.

For further information please contact the DGRU's director, Ms Vanja Karth on vanja.karth@uct.ac.za.