



From the DVC's Desk

Research, Innovation and Partnerships

Prof Colin Stanley

14.04.2025



“A single bracelet does not jingle.” – Congolese proverb

As we wrap up the first quarter of 2025, the Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnerships [DRIP] celebrates a season of groundbreaking achievements, institutional pride and strategic collaborations.

Strength in Unity: The Policy Development Working Group Charts the Way Forward

Meaningful progress is rarely the result of solo efforts. It takes collective input, shared vision and coordinated action, a principle embodied by the recent work of the Policy Development Working Group (PDWG) at NUST.

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen academic processes, a Workshop of the Professorial Selection and Promotion Committee (PSPC) was held on 3 March 2025 to review the Policy for awarding Professorships. During this session, the committee identified key gaps in the Policy and proposed areas for improvement. Notably, Cardiff University shared its academic banding system with the PSPC, providing valuable insights for benchmarking and policy refinement.

PDWG, established under the Office of the DVC: RI&P, was tasked with reviewing and finalising the Policy for awarding Professorships. PDWG comprises eight committed members, working tirelessly to align the document with NUST's strategic goals and global academic standards.

The revised Policy for Awarding Professorships will soon be submitted for discussion to the Board of Studies, PSPC, Senate, and, subsequently, the NUST Council for approval.

N\$2 Million in Research Grants Awarded by NCRST

On 12 March, the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) awarded over N\$2 million to NUST researchers for pioneering work in climate-smart agriculture, urban water security, and space science. This initiative reaffirms the power of applied research in transforming communities.

Highlights include:

- Prof Percy Chimwamurombe – Food and Nutrition Improvement

Developing protein-rich legumes and biofertilisers using low-cost biotechnology to improve soil fertility and household food security.

- Prof Attlee Gamundani – Reimagining Urban Water Security

Exploring AI- and IoT-driven solutions to enhance urban water infrastructure and resilience in the face of climate change.

- Dr Smita Francis – Nano Satellite Early Warning System

Designing a nano satellite system for real-time disaster monitoring and early warning to support emergency preparedness in Namibia.