

7.8 Annexure 2E: Postgraduate - student evaluations

<p style="text-align: center;">REPORT ON STUDENT EVALUATION OF POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION</p> <p>Lecturer: Dr S Mukwembi</p> <p>The following report is based on student evaluation questionnaire data, administered to students registered for the module. A total of about 2 students was supervised by the lecturer, 2 (100%) of whom answered the questionnaire.¹</p> <p>In the questionnaire the students were presented with a number of open-ended questions. All student comments included in the report are quoted verbatim.</p> <p>1. The extent to which your supervisor established clear and explicit mutual expectations of the supervision process with you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mukwembi always clear gave clear instructions on what he expected me to do as his student. I had no problems whatsoever in following the instructions. This worked well for both of us until I finished my PhD studies. • Dr Mukwembi established weekly meetings from the very beginning & always invited me to local & international conferences, at his expense. In response I automatically tried my best to not disappoint him. <p>2. The extent to which your supervisor helped you work out a timeframe for the project with relevant target dates for completing various stages of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mukwembi had to set time targets during my studies but they were always reasonable & were necessary to keep me focused. Other time frames became easy to determine, once papers were being submitted for publication. • Dr Mukwembi was always useful during the various stages of my project. Though we did not have a clear timeframe for my project because of the nature of the subject he always saw to it that all the problems we embarked on in my project were completely solved and translated into journal articles. I am pleased to say that because of his help and interest we were able to write three articles from PhD thesis. <p>3. The extent to which your supervisor established a compatible working relationship and was readily accessible and approachable for consultation or advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mukwembi treated me very well during my PhD studies. Our relationship was cordial and I could go for consultation to him anytime. He was always happy to assist or give me advice on my project. Sometimes I felt free to discuss with him my personal issues. This enabling environment helped me to make good progress in my studies. • Dr Mukwembi is always available & warmly welcoming. Our working relationship is excellent & his advice good. <p><small>¹Low response rates reduce the reliability of the feedback. It is recommended that data be treated with caution when response rates are less than 50% for classes of 100 or more, less than 66% for classes 50-100, less than 75% for classes 20-50, and less than 80% for classes less than 20.</small></p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>4. The extent to which your supervisor has a good knowledge of the current research related to your topic and of research methods appropriate to the nature of the topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mukwembi had a good knowledge of my topic, by the end of the project I knew a bit of some of the details, but he had the global understanding & also foresight for future studies. He has excellent skills with the research methods in our field and is indeed quite innovative in his research. • Dr Mukwembi is quite knowledge of research on "distances in graphs", the topic of my project. The problems that he suggested for my project were nice and solvable. The methods which we used for solving the problems were appreciated by both the examiners of my PhD thesis and reviewers of the articles we had submitted to journals. I honestly admire his knowledge of the subject. <p>5. The extent to which your supervisor attempted to help you find a solution to any problems encountered in your work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second problem of my project was a bit difficult. It took us one year and half to finish. Dr Mukwembi always gave hints on how to tackle the problem whenever I met him for consultation. It was because of his enthusiasm and help that in the end we were able to find a solution. • Dr Mukwembi was extremely pro-active if any practical problem occurred (printers, funding, time constraints, health considerations etc.) and has been extremely generous to empathetic. He is amazing at hiding journals from the web! <p>6. The extent to which your supervisor provided prompt and constructive feedback on your work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His feedback was always in less than 24hours! He also immediately acknowledges receipt of work & gave an expected response time. The feedback was incredibly encouraging, all the time. • Dr Mukwembi always read my work immediately I gave him. He was very thorough and paid attention to details. I don't remember any instance when I had to wait for a long time without doing anything while waiting for his feedback. I give him credit for prompt feedback on my work. <p>7. The extent to which your supervisor encouraged your research and helped you to maintain enthusiasm for your work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mukwembi always encouraged me to keep on working hard. There are times when things became tough but he always asked me to be patient and remain calm. He also helped me to maintain enthusiasm in my work by making himself available for consultation and providing prompt feedback. • Since Dr Mukwembi loves his field his enthusiasm is contagious. He loves research and challenge. Whenever he saw me launering, he'd make a concrete input & get me over the blockage. <p>8. Please identify the best aspects of the supervision you are currently receiving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These studies have been a lot of work, but entirely anxiety free! Dr Mukwembi's calm manner and praise meant a smooth 3 years of work. I also appreciate enormously his patience in explaining slowly when I didn't understand a concept. Being able to travel to conferences in many different locations has been the best part of all. <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
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