

HUGH THEODORE AMOORE

VC, I RISE TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT of THIS PROPOSAL, AS STRONGLY AS I CAN. Such motions are customarily adopted without comment, but on this occasion it would be a travesty if there was to be none such.

Although I knew HTA as a Sub-warden in Driekoppen/ Kopano in the early 1970s, and as Secretary of the SRC,

[Yes, even then he had a pen and clipboard with him at all times, or so it seemed, (except naturally when he was running long distances, such as the first ten Two Oceans marathons, in which race he now has the number 1, for ever),]

I first encountered his critical and magisterial role in the good governance of this institution in July or August 1987, my first meeting of Senate, in this very lecture hall.

The subject of discussion was the report commissioned by UCT on the “Connor Cruise O’Brien” affair, a matter that deeply divided Senate, other constituencies in the University, and society generally.

I clearly recall the key role played by the Registrar in keeping the meeting on track, through its Chair VC Stuart Saunders, and in preserving the idea of rationality in argument, even in the face of heated emotional rhetoric.

In the intervening 28 years, I have observed HTA in operation in more committee and other events than I care to remember, but probably only about 5% of such meetings for him.

Most notably at Senate, when some VCs and members of Senate might have been tempted to cut procedural corners, the Registrar has always brought us quietly and calmly back to proper process; although there have been some occasions when his frustration has shown in the colour of his face, though not in the colour of his language!

So Hugh Amoore has counselled, cajoled and corrected countless committee chairs over the decades, even before his elevation to the Registrarship. In doing this, he seems

- to have at his fingertips every rule, precedent, and law of the University and the Higher Education landscape;
- To know by name every member of Senate, as he sits calmly ticking off our names on this master list, so that we cannot claim that we were present, by getting someone else to sign on our behalf--- not that any of us would dream of doing so;

- To be able to recall the finer details of debates and incidents of relevance to a point under discussion as far back at least as the early 1970s, in his personal experience, and probably much further back because someone else told him about it;
- And he has a limitless treasury of anecdotes about all of us, and I daresay we of him!

VC, over the decades I have observed that HTA, instantly recognisable by his bowtie, has stood steadfast and committed to fair process, to rule and to law, sometimes to a fault; and has been utterly respectful of every person with whom he interacts, even under the most appallingly provocative and disrespectful circumstances, such as we saw in a meeting of this body just over ten days' ago.

He has been a courageous and principled servant and leader of this University, of the academic project, of higher education nationally and beyond,

And of the cause of good governance and democracy in this city and country.

Indeed, it has seemed to me that HTA has been the oracle and the rock on which the proper governance of this university has been developed over the past 42 years of his service, and most particularly his term as Registrar.

VC, I could go on about lesser-known aspects of his career, including his championing of the establishment of UCT's EDUCARE Centre, from the outset, even when he had no children, of his wise stewardship of the UCT Retirement Fund, the fact that he only obtained a driver's licence in his 30's, and so on. But the hour is tense, we have much business to do, and other obligations to attend to.

So, in closing, I would urge members of Senate to indicate their strongest possible support for this proposal, by rising to their feet and applauding

HUGH THEODORE AMOORE

For his wonderful and selfless service to this Senate and this university.

We shall miss him more than we suspect; we are utterly indebted to him.

I so move.

HUGH MICAH CORDER

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