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## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM DEAN FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

Professor Anton le Roex finishes his term of seven years of distinguished service as Dean of Science at UCT at the end of December 2017. The selection committee charged with recommending his successor started its work in April. It went through several rounds of shortlisting and, having canvassed the field extensively, the committee interviewed three short-listed candidates in late October. Regrettably, none of them received the required level of support from the Selection Committee, which is a two-thirds majority vote. The candidates were duly informed of the outcome.

Given the late stage of the year, and the selection committee's view that it had thoroughly searched the national pool of potential candidates, it was decided to appoint an Interim Dean for a period of 18 months, with a search and selection process to fill the substantive post to be recommenced in a year's time.

The discretion to appoint an Interim Dean and the choice of the person rests with the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor will nevertheless want to appoint someone who has the confidence of the senior members of the faculty, who will constitute the leadership team for the faculty, such as the Dean's Advisory Committee and the Academic Heads of Departments. The process should ideally also offer fair opportunities to anyone interested, to be considered for the position.

Accordingly, all members of the faculty were notified on 2 November of the opportunity to send any nominations or applications for consideration for this position by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017 to Professor Hugh Corder, the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor to whom the deans report. At the conclusion of this period, thirty nominations had been made, the overwhelming majority of which were for one person. I then considered the candidates nominated and decided that the candidate who received this overwhelming support was indeed well qualified and had the appropriate experience for the position. I submitted this name to the Dean's Advisory Committee in Science, for any comment, and again there was strong support for this nominee.

I am delighted, therefore, to announce that I have appointed Professor Susan Bourne, of the Chemistry Department at UCT, to serve as Interim Dean of Science from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2019.

Susan Bourne completed her BSc (Hons) and PhD degrees at the University of Cape Town. After a postdoctoral period in the USA she was appointed as a lecturer at the University of Cape Town in 1994, and promoted to Professor of Physical Chemistry in 2008.

She has been head of the Department of Chemistry since 2012 and deputy dean of the Faculty of Science from 2013 to 2016.

Her academic specialisation is in the field of supramolecular chemistry, with a particular focus on crystal engineering, exploiting preferred intermolecular interactions to design materials with useful physical properties. She has served on a number of national and international scientific bodies, including periods as the President of the South African Crystallographic Society, Chair of the Commission on Structural Chemistry of the International Union of Crystallography, and co-chair of the Pan-African Crystallography congress.

I am confident that, with Professor Bourne at the helm, the Science Faculty will enjoy continued stability and the high standards of teaching and research that justify its leading reputation in the field. I also look forward to welcoming Professor Bourne as a member of the Senior Leadership Group from 1 January 2018.

While there will be other opportunities to express our appreciation to the outgoing dean, Professor le Roex, I want to record here my admiration and gratitude to him for the outstanding contribution he has made to both the faculty and the university over many years.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Max Price". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Max" and the last name "Price" clearly distinguishable.

Dr Max Price  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of Cape Town