

The National Executive Council of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) met on Saturday 10th - Sunday 11th, 2009 at the Delta State University (DELSU), Abraka. The meeting attended by forty branches, took resolutions on the Universities and issues on the state of the nation.

1. THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCILS OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITIES
The Federal Government of Nigeria announced the reconstitution of the Governing Councils of Federal Universities on Friday, 9, 2009 (Daily Trust, Friday 9, 2009).

(I) The Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Act 2003, Amendment of the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Decree 11, 1993, provides as follows:

(II) (1) There shall be a Council for each of the Universities constituting of:

- (a) The Pro-Chancellor
- (b) The Vice-Chancellor
- (c) The Deputy Vice-Chancellors
- (d) One person from the Federal Ministry responsible for Education.
- (e) Four persons representing a variety of interests and broadly representative of the whole Federation to be appointed by the National Council of Ministers.
- (f) Four persons appointed by the Senate from among its members
- (g) Two persons appointed by the Congregation from among its members; and
- (h) One person appointed by Convocation from among its members.

Had the Federal Government obeyed the law, it ought to have appointed six (6) members: One representative of the Ministry (e), Four (4) persons representing the whole Federation (e), and the Pro-chancellor (a). But in clear violation of the law, the Federal Government announced ten (10) representatives for each Governing Council.

(III) The same Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Act, 2003, provides that members of Council shall be persons of proven integrity, knowledgeable and familiar with the affairs and tradition of the University.

This provision is important in view of the urgent need of the universities for repositioning themselves to enable Nigeria to meet the challenge of competing and surviving in the twenty-first century.

To meet this challenge, University Governing Councils should not be subjected to the interest of any political party. They should not include persons who have little or no knowledge of universities, and by persons whose past records in service (civil or military or elsewhere) fell far short of accountability and have records of subverting democracy.