

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES KNUST

29th March 2012

The SRC President Elect,
KNUST

Dear Sir,

Call for Action on Campus Security Concerns

I write on behalf of team Research Associates KNUST to extend our deepest felicitations to you and your executives on being elected student leaders of this great institution for the 2012/2013 academic year. At Research Associates, our dream for every student on campus is life to its fullness, and our prayer for student leadership is the determination to help make it so, hence we are looking up to you to provide leadership that would positively impact the KNUST Community, so that long after you are gone, you would still be remembered when students think of progress and development. Many were the hopes you raised in the course of the campaign, and our prayer is: God forbids that a year from now, the story be told by students that Ebenezer Bonsra's administration gave them a raw deal.

As you are aware, team Research Associates as part of our objective of providing intelligent research solutions for KNUST community members, conducted a survey ahead of the SRC election, to find out from students the most pressing concerns that they want the incoming SRC executives to invest their ingenuity, their energy and students resources in tackling head on, and security came tops, with 48.1 percent of respondents mentioning that. Clearly, the authenticity of the survey as a true reflection of the views of the KNUST community is unquestionable, because as we did put out some weeks ago, a greater number of the respondents to our survey (23.6 percent), also mentioned you as their choicest candidate for the SRC presidential slot, and clearly, that view was in obvious conformity with the eventual decision of the general student body on 27th March 2012.

Mr. President elect, this letter to you has become necessary because perusing your campaign policy document, though you admittedly had scores of ideas on how to better the lot of students in several other spheres, it contained no proposals on how the poor security situation on campus could be dealt with. We would thus want to draw the attention of your office to the fact that the large part of the student populace are uneasy about cases of armed robbery, theft of valuable items during examinations, poor lightening at various spots at night, the inept nature of the manner in which room keys deposited at the porter's lodge of various halls are given out, among others, which they expect you to in one way or the other play a role in addressing. It is true that the security problem is one that goes beyond the capacity of student leadership to resolve,

but your role in pushing for the implementation of policies that could make campus an unsafe haven for crime, cannot be over emphasized.

It is a fact that the structure of student leadership as it exists currently is “winner takes all”, but you would agree with me that no human being nor group of humans is an epitome of wisdom and ideas, hence we would encourage you to make a conscious effort at harmonizing and sieving for implementation, some of the ideas and suggestions of your former competitors on how to help deal with the security concerns. Proposals to put up more street lights with money from the SRC development fund, advocate for the increase in the number of security personnel, push for joint night police and military patrols on campus, increase education on security tips for students, among others, are a few of those suggestions we would urge you to consider prioritizing to make campus a safer habitat for students. We are also counting on you and your competent administration team members to think through the concerns of poor security, and come up with even more pragmatic strategies which you could advocate for, in order to improve upon the safety of students.

Our survey also revealed other concerns including frequent power outages, high accommodation costs, increased school fees, poor academic facilities, unreliable paid for internet connectivity, transportation challenges, and difficulty in accessing health care, which students are counting on you to lead an advocacy in helping resolve. We know that student leadership cannot solve all problems facing students, but we are also confident that with a slight shift in priorities on the part of student leadership, the life of a large part of the junior members of this great community can be touched in a positively impactful way by student leaders.

God bless you, and may God bless KNUST.

Yours faithfully,

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Joseph Opoku
Team leader,
Research Associates KNUST

Cc:

College Presidents

Departmental and Faculty Student Association Presidents

Hall Presidents

KNUST students