

Varsity students to start using biometric cards.

Date and time: Tue, 2017-07-18 13:58

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University of Nairobi students will soon start using biometric identify cards. The cards will serve the purposes of security, identification and as an ATM card, which will enable students' access the various services simply by swiping.

The idea has been mooted by Higher Education Loans Board, HELB and has been successfully implemented by other universities among them: Maasai Mara University, Pwani University, Egerton University and Moi University. The Higher Education Loans Board has been at the forefront in funding students to enable as many students as possible to afford higher education in university and technical colleges.

Mr. Charles Ringera, Chief Executive Officer, HELB, observed that funding higher education is a challenge the world over and even developed nations still experience challenges in supporting all students in the institution of higher learning. He observed that students will soon be exposed to financial literacy classes to enable them manage their finances prudently and put the money to good use.

Mr. Ringera also took the opportunity to request the University to help in tracking Kshs 8.5 billion shillings outstanding. Since its inception in 1974, HELB has given out 62 Billion shillings and was working closely with the Alumni office and the Academics department to get the loan defaulters.

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University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi supported the biometric identify cards initiative and urged the relevant technical committees to work on the details. The technical committee will consist of finance, administration, procurement and security personnel who will work with respective banks to have the biometric system implemented.

Once implemented, the card will enable Application Programming Interface, API, integration with the student portal and the students will access the services seamlessly.

Following the terrorist attacks at Garissa University College some few years back, student's safety and security has been a priority and the relevant authorities in the education sector are putting measures in place to ensure students are safe.

Also present during the meeting held at the Vice-Chancellors office today, July, 18, 2017 were; David Ndegwa Wachira , Board Chairman , Higher Education Loans Board and Prof. Timothy Wachira, representative of the Vice-Chancellors and Principals of Private Universities.

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Contact Person:

Peter Oluoch

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