# Dear Faculty Member

Innovative Measures in Engineering: Moving to the Next Level

It was two years ago that I offered myself to you to serve you in the capacity of Dean for our faculty. At that time, you will recall, our proposal to serve you was based on a platform of 8 points of Innovative ideas that we wanted to bring to the faculty. The full text can be reached on the Internet at <https://www.facebook.com/notes/oafak2012/kindling-hope-with-the-spirit-of-innovation-or-why-you-should-vote-oafak-as-the-/227327567384205>

I am coming back to you two years later to ask you to renew your support. I don’t want to take your vote for granted and therefore, I think it’s best to begin from the promises of two years ago. This year, I recognize the fact that you have also received promissory notes from another candidate. I want you to be careful and compare wisely and distinguish between promissory notes and delivered goods.

# Promises Delivered

Out of the eight innovative ideas that were put before you, the following have been delivered:

1. We have begun to change some of the ways that Laboratories do business. We have designed a new Laboratory Assistant Paradigm that enables some of our best graduates to become Laboratory Instructors and this has worked wonders in at least four labs and others are able to learn from that. Beginning with the LG Design Laboratory, we have extended this in Systems Engineering to Systems Engineering Labs and are moving that idea right away to the New LG Airconditioning.
2. Our Industry Partnership now makes it possible for staff to look in the direction of joint projects such as NAPTIN, Ericsson ESAP Training, LG Airconditioning Academy, Energy Consulting, Partnerships with foreign contractors in Nigeria for money making and career boosting participation that will take add needed practical experience to your education, teaching and research.
3. The Faculty Journal is live online. Contrary to the wishful thinking in some quarters, the faculty Journal is alive and well. For the first time in its history, we have placed it online. We did not stop there. The Faculty prospectus is also online in two versions. There is a version that is exactly the same as the printed copy (verbatim) so anyone can easily download it directly. It is a large file. There is another version in HTML for easy topical reading optimized for the slow connection you may have.

I have personally placed my lecture notes online for more than six years. We are seeing the encouraging signs that other lecturers are following that same track. It is no longer necessary to have to maintain your personal website to get this done as the University now subscribes to the Moddle Learning Management Systems.

1. We promised to work for the return of the Julius Berger Lecture Theater. We are now getting a double. The contract for the Third engineering lecture theatre has been now passed through the University Tender Board. Funding is already in the kitty and the process is going on steadily.
2. It is the above that we want to add to the extension of the New Engineering Block for the proposed Ayodele Awojobi Centre. What we are doing now is to source for another funder to support additional facility on behalf of the brand name of the late professor on top of what the university will do with TETFund and other government funds.
3. We have started using modern tools to teach in the faculty but that has not become sufficiently widespread. A lot more needs to be done. It is for this reason that we now have an officer in charge of assisting faculty members who want to include Finite Elements simulations in their teaching and research. Dr Bode Olakoyejo is there to handle ANSYS, Dr Theddeus Akano and Mr Olurotimi Adeleye are able to handle COMSOL Multiphysics while Emmanuel Olowusulu and the staff of LG Design Lab will help with Mathematica and Symbolics.

The above six points are from the eight innovations promised in our campaign in 2012. As you can see, these are no longer promissory notes but delivered fully in some cases and others are work-in-progress.

# New Projects

1. The LG Airconditioning Training Facility scored a major success in the past week as the “Form M” required by the Supplier in South Korea was finally released by the Central Bank in Abuja. We will be able to deliver this facility in September as the importer requires sixty days after the release of form M to ship to Lagos. When this project is launched in September, our lecturers can look to alternative ways of getting extra income through consultancy and training opportunities in the building services sector. The room 106 is currently being decorated and prepared for this project.
2. NAPTIN MOU for training manpower in the power sector. In the course of this year, the university of Lagos signed a MOU with the National Power Training Institute to offer a joint Masters degree that gives us the room to participate in the proposed expansion of trained manpower for the power sector. This project will enable lectures in electrical and mechanical engineering the opportunity to contribute to this effort and also work as parttime instructors.
3. Ericsson ESAP program. This is an innovative programme to give our undergraduates concurrent certifications in the communications sector. It will include on campus and off campus training for students as well as IT attachments and employment opportunities.
4. New Lecture theatre. Contract for the twin of the Julius Berger lecture theatre has already gone through the University Tender’s board.
5. New offices and toilets. We are on the verge of the opening of a new section of the additional block of offices and classrooms for our faculty. These buildings are a welcome relief for all those that are yet to be comfortably housed in offices. Our present toilet situation will improve in two ways: (1) The addition of a total of 24 new toilet will ease our present predicament. (2) Opening them will allow us the time we need to fully renovate exiosting facilities as our recurent problems are related to overuse. Anad lastly, the university authorities have allowed us to alter the design of the next phase of the building to include an extra 40 toilets so as to make toilet problems a solved problem for the long run.
6. Do I need to remind you that the PTDF complex was added to Chemical Engineering in the period of our stewardship. That has breathed new life to facilities in that department and eased most of the issues we still grapple with in the main Engineering complex.

# Pending Issues

Now let us talk about issues of innovation yet to be delivered.

Energy Programmes in Electrical, Mechanical and Systems Engineering. These are still a work in progress for the simple fact that the disruption in our academic program has forced the postponement of certain university processes. As at the time of last election, there was a planned change of directorship in the Energy Centre. We plan to make the inclusion of new laboratories for the joint use of our faculty and the energy center a major plank for our envisaged change in leadership of the center. That has not yet materialized.

The transition from the Surveys and Geoinformatics department to Geomatics Engineering met with some resistance. We stand ready to give all the assistance necessary to move this issue forward as they clean the rough edges. These are therefore yet to be fully realized even though work has indeed started.

As I request once again for your support, I am sending this notice of account of our stewardship in the past two years. This and other short memos will be available on my website: [www.oafak.com](http://www.oafak.com) where you can reach me and post your own comments. You can ask questions on issues that concern you and we will endeavour to give you a response as best we can.

# Conclusion

The spirit of innovation lives on. Give us two more years to see the ongoing projects to a conclusion. Our faculty will be better for it. Vote oafak again in 2014!