Governance of Public Universities in Kenya and Trade Unionization of Academic Staff: The University Academic Staff Union (UASU)

By

Daniel N Sifuna, PhD
Kenyatta University,
Nairobi, Kenya
E-mail: dnsifuna@gmail.com

Abstract
This article aims at analysing the concept of collegial and corporate systems of university governance and how government and universities relations as well as universities’ management as sources of conflict contributing to academic staff trade unionization through the formation of the University Academic Staff Union (UASU) in Kenya to give them a voice of protecting their rights and improving their terms and conditions of service as has been demonstrated over time. This has positively led to the signing of collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) between the union and the government which however, remain to be implemented to the full by both parties. It is recommended that the union leadership ought to be a little more aggressive through updating members of its activities through publication of a more regular newsletter and other relevant forums.

Key words: Kenya: Universities’ Unions, Governance of Public Universities and Unionisation of Academic Staff, UASU