

12 SEP 2003

UiTM

UiTM DRAFTS FORMULA TO BALANCE GENDER INTAKE IN 2008

SHAH ALAM, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) has drafted a formula to strike a balance in the composition of female and male students in the institute come 2008, its Vice-Chancellor, Datuk Seri Prof Ibrahim Abu Shah, said today.

He said UiTM was aware of the gender imbalance in the university, where women comprised 63 per cent of the student population, and had decided to correct this.

He said the formula was designed to increase the number of male students without reducing the number of female intakes.

"We will not bother the female students by reducing their number. What we want to do is to increase the intake of male students. We aim to balance the genders within five years," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, during a recent visit to UiTM, had challenged the men to balance the ratio of genders in universities, of which 70 per cent was currently in favour of the women.

Prof Ibrahim, however, said UiTM would not lower its minimum academic requirements to help increase the intake of male students.

"For certain, we will not lower the requirements. In fact, some faculties want to impose stricter conditions," he said.

He said the new process would begin in November, when UiTM usually took in 10,000 students, compared to the 20,000 taken in May and all campus and branch directors had been instructed to ensure an increase in the number of male students in the coming academic session.

Prof Ibrahim also said that UiTM's 58th convocation, to be held from Sept 22 to Oct 6, would be opened by its Chancellor, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail.

UiTM Pro-Chancellor Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Arshad would be conferred an honorary Doctorate in Education Management for his contributions in the field, he said.

-- BERNAMA

LES EMK SRI