

For 26/9/86

FAREWELL ADDRESS TO MEMBERS OF STAFF AT THE FAREWELL PARTY
GIVEN TO MARK THE RETIREMENT OF PROFESSOR WLADIMIR BROMMERT

And now I will move on to Professor Brommert.

I have known Professor Brommert for the past 25 years. Professor Brommert joined the staff of the University of the Witwatersand as a Graduate Assistant in 1945 and I arrived there to take up a lecturing post in 1962. It is a privilege for me, after these many years, to have the opportunity to bid him farewell on the occasion of his retirement.

As you can well imagine I was delighted when Wladimir Brommert was appointed Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Principal at Rhodes in 1977. I was pleased not only on my own account, but also because I knew his arrival would be good for this University too. And so it turned out to be.

Professor Brommert had a distinguished career spanning 30 years at Wits and his nine years here have been no less eventful. He has played his part ~~the overall management~~ managed the administrative side of the University with a purposeful competence and has left his mark in a number of widely differing areas.

Professor Brommert was the Chairman of the Quad 11 Control Committee and it was this committee which brought to a highly successful conclusion the biggest project to be tackled by the university for

X more than a decade. ~~And~~ ⁶ over the years he has played a significant roll in the up-grading of sporting facilities at Rhodes. As Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sport Policy he was instrumental in the establishment of the new professional coaching and sports bursary schemes.

Another area which earned Professor Brommert's support was the Department of Music and its Chamber Choir. Through his interest and through recognition of the choir's ambassadorial potential great strides were made. Today the buildings, the equipment and the choir are of a very high standard.

Of course, Professor Brommert's love of music was well known. For some years he was Chairman of the Grahamstown Music Society and only resigned because of the pressure of work at the University.

These were the more visible signs of his activity. Less visibly but just as effectively he was Chairman of the Boards of Control of four institutes and units including ISEA and the Centre for Social Development and was also a member of 26 University committees.

I do not want this to sound like a recital of good works, but only to try to illustrate to those of you who have been less closely involved than I, why Professor Brommert's act will be a difficult one to follow.

~~And~~ I do not forget that, apart from his contribution to Rhodes

University, Professor Brommert will be remembered for his participation in other external activities. He was a member of the Joint Matriculation Board for many years and his life-long interest in Physics has earned him the respect of many. For example, recently, he was consulted in this field by the nearby fledgeling university, the University of the Transkei.

Professor Brommert has indeed proved himself

~~Indeed~~ a man of many parts. Ladies and gentlemen it must be quite clear to you that we owe Professor Brommert a great debt of gratitude. His openness, his humility, his consideration for his fellow man and his strong personal commitment to works of value have earned for him a place of esteem at Rhodes.

Professor Brommert, on behalf of all of us here today and the many who could not be here I say thank you and I wish you a long and a happy retirement. ^P~~And~~ please remember, you will always be most welcome at Rhodes.

CJE/JEM

10-9-86