



Abridged Biography | Mr Hardy Maritz



Hardy Maritz is a finance professional with a 21-year track record in higher education leadership, with wide ranging experience in financial management, cash flow planning and forecasting, planning more generally, governance, systems and projects, executive support and training, negotiations of all types and communication with a variety of stakeholders.

Hardy's sector experience, involvement and leadership has included producing academic viability models for the University of Venda and the Tshwane University of Technology, leading a HESA/USSaF and Finance Executive Forum team in designing a fee setting guideline and process for South African institutions, starting the benchmarking of local institutions project with colleagues from WITS and UJ, playing a role in negotiating the setting up and contractual arrangements in respect of the University Sports Company, as well as serving on the Board, Audit and Risk Committee, Remuneration Committee and Nominations Committee of the Tertiary Education and Research Network of South Africa (TENET) until June 2018 when his term of office came to an end.

In January 2017 he was invited to join the Board of the South African National Library and Information Consortium (SANLIC) as a co-opted Director and continues to serve in this capacity, while in May 2019 he was appointed by the Council of Sol Plaatjie University as an expert external member on its University Finance Committee. In November 2018 he was elected Deputy-Chair of the Finance Executive Forum of USAf, while he also serves on the national task team working on a fee setting model for higher education in South Africa as well as on the National Site Licensing and Open Access Project (NSLOAP) working group. Since January 2017 he has served as a member elected trustee of the University of Cape Town Retirement Fund (UCTRF), and in January 2020 was appointed as Chair of the UCTRF Investment Committee.

He has also in his time at UCT, served on an extensive number of committees dealing with a variety of issues that impact on all facets of UCT.

Hardy Maritz studied accounting and related fields as well as computer science before commencing his professional career with KPMG Chartered Accountants (formerly Aiken and Peat) as an articled clerk in the Pietermaritzburg Office. Due to unexpected resignations at the end of his first year of clerkship, the second largest client of the practice requested the partner in charge to assign him to lead and manage their audits. This set a trajectory for consistently taking on roles and responsibilities seemingly beyond his level of experience, but well within his capabilities.

Having completed his contract of clerkship, Hardy moved to the United Kingdom to gain wider experience. He spent twelve months working on contract for Energizer Europe, Middle East and Africa as part of setting up a shared financial services centre (SSC) in London. The role required setting up central control of and managing all aspects of inventory for the company's operations (costing, pricing, managing stock levels, payment of suppliers). After successfully setting up the new inventory function and training a successor team to manage the European wide inventory and relationships with country based warehouses, he was recruited by Shell International to help set up Infineum (a joint venture business being set up by Shell International and Exxon Corporation to manage their merged US\$ 1.5bn oil and petroleum additives businesses).

Hardy's brief for Infineum was to set up the UK accounting and finance function in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, and to assist in establishing the world-wide headquarters in Reading, Berkshire in under 12 months. The requirements covered all aspects of creating the new entity including: job design, recruiting and appointing of staff; implementing IT and related systems; negotiating with and appointing bankers; appointing outsourced payroll providers; agreeing and contracting for services to be provided by the parent companies; designing and documenting all financial procedures and controls including accounts payable, treasury, inventory, indirect taxation, inter-company accounting and research and development; designing and implementing authority limits for all staff; designing induction and training regimens for the new teams; choosing and implementing a low value procurement card and managing the new seven person finance team prior to start up, while assisting the new UK Finance Director in the transition period following start up.

Since joining UCT in 1999, Hardy has fulfilled the role of managing and collating all aspects of the annual fee setting/negotiation, budgeting and management reporting processes. In addition, he played a key role as part of a new Finance Executive Team, under the leadership of Prof Enrico Uliana, who managed and re-shaped the finances of the institution so as to place it on a sustainable financial footing.

Hardy was also instrumental in managing, implementing and transitioning to the current structure of devolved finance managers in units, including their reporting lines and co-management arrangements with unit heads. He also undertook a Master's Degree at UCT and has to date successfully completed all coursework. The current UCT Management Accounting and User Support function grew under his guidance and leadership and has become a unit whose advice and involvement in many varied aspects of activities, operations and finance at UCT are sought out.

At the start of 2016, Hardy was appointed as the Director: Group Finance for UCT and his portfolio was expanded to include taking line management responsibility for Financial Accounting, Debtors, Treasury and Banking as well as retaining Management Accounting. Since July 2020, Hardy has served as the Executive Director: Finance (Acting) at UCT.
