

What is in place for this Sport Faculty?

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The Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies has announced a new Faculty of Sport will be up and running in the 2017-2018 academic year. Dr Akshai Mansingh has been named the dean, and the statement from The UWI said the faculty would be university-wide and that sports programmes would be offered across all four campuses, but it offers little detail.

What are those programmes? Where have they been structured? Who has approved them? Who is teaching them? Who are the members of this faculty? How is The UWI paying them?

This academic year has begun; classes will begin in a few weeks. What applications have there been? What requirements for students? If this is something 25 years in the making, as was said, and there seems to be nothing visible in place but a dean, one has to ask: what is going on?

At the St Augustine campus, where the finances are better off than at the others, the principal has spoken about budget cuts, contracts not being renewed and understaffed departments. Why is The UWI now rushing to make up a faculty in a time of such economic stress?

The people of the region must demand the accountability and transparency that has been promised by the university leadership. The governments that support The UWI in our name have a responsibility to demand proper accounting of the way the university is spending our money.

Curtis Jordan

St Augustine