

Really, no one saw this coming?

With an education system in disarray, now comes the announcement that The University of the West Indies has made the decision to lower the requirements for the Faculty of Social Sciences (largest faculty) as a result of drop in the number of applicants.

This implies that decision makers did not foresee the impending fallout of GATE. The idea of "free" education implemented by the Manning government was to ensure that the country's patrimony, "oil", was made available to all. Corruption in the programme and recession forced the current government to "close the gate" given the country's financial constraints. I agree it was the right decision at this time.

As a former mature **UWI** student it is well known that the part-time and/evening classes comprise mature students including the over-50 (where GATE has ceased). This is another example of an adhoc decision by a Minister and by

extension the government regarding the impact on our premier university. Yes, they will say they held consultations, but we are aware in T&T that means those in power enter office with preconceived notion of solutions to problems and within two-three months hold talk shops and then do as the had originally planned. Really, no one saw this coming?

This will add to the continued downward slide of the education system given the quality of our current graduates who lack critical thinking, basic English and lack expression. We already have people running around with degrees (attained or purchased) and look at the state of our country.

You think lowering the entry level is the solution? People have to invest in themselves. Freeness has a price, as well as the dependency syndrome.

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