

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION

Mona

Year ending July 31, 2014



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Dean

– *Dean’s Overview* –

The Faculty of Humanities and Education maintained its commitment to the major goals of the 2012–2017 University Strategic Plan and pursued initiatives within the resource constraints.

TRANSFORMATIONAL ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

In support of the Single Virtual University (SVU), the School of Education (SOE) in January 2014 initiated the delivery of the special Masters of Arts in Teaching – Part I programme (Graduate Diploma in Education) to four sites, Bermuda, Mona, St. Lucia and Western Jamaica Campus, concurrently. The programme proceeded smoothly and is a model that will encourage other departments to explore the SVU initiative.

The SOE and the Joint Board of Teacher Education (JBTE) energetically embraced the initiative from the Ministry of Education and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for the award of UWI Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degrees for programmes of the Teachers’ Colleges of Jamaica in the following specializations: Early Childhood Education, Primary Education, Special Education, School Counselling, and Secondary Education in the following areas: Business Studies, Computer Studies, English, Geography, History, Human Ecology, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Physical Education, Religious Education, Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and Social Studies. The SOE and the JBTE participated in the detailed review of the several courses and programmes

which subsequently gained approval at the level of the Faculty, Campus and University. It is anticipated that the first awards of degrees will be made to the cohort graduating from the teachers' colleges during the 2014–2015 academic year.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Curriculum Reform and Renewal remained the collective focus of the Faculty which is determined to preserve UWI's reputation as an institution of higher learning dedicated to the attainment of the human potential of its students. Indeed, the Faculty underscored the relevance of the humanities by the following initiatives that enhanced and expanded its undergraduate program and course offerings:

- The Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) developed new Bachelors of Fine Arts programmes in Animation and Film Production.
- The Department of History and Archaeology revamped the major in Africa and African Diaspora Studies and revised the BA in History and Heritage Studies.
- Four new Minors were designed and approved: Caribbean Sign Language Interpreting, Cultural and Creative Industries, Japanese and Reggae Studies, respectively.
- Overall, twenty six new courses and six amendments to existing courses, reflecting the several disciplines in the FHE were approved.

TURNING OUT THE IDEAL UWI GRADUATE

Internships and other out of classroom learning experiences, locally, regionally and internationally were integral to the students' exposure and training in the following programmes: Archaeology, Education, Entertainment and Cultural Enterprise Management, Integrated Marketing and Communication, Journalism, Library Studies and Modern Languages.

In keeping with the goal of the Strategic Plan to produce graduates

capable of oral communication in English and with communication skills for the world of work, the Language section of the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy launched new courses in Critical Reading and Writing that distinguished between students in programmes in Humanities, Education, Social Sciences and Gender Studies, and Science & Technology and Medical Sciences. Significantly, a new year-long six-credit Foundation course for students unable to demonstrate a sufficient level of English language proficiency for academic success was taught for the first time in 2013/14.

Undergraduate registration declined by 6 per cent (127) when compared to the previous year. Both financial difficulties and increased access for Jamaican students to the Faculties of Law at Cave Hill and Mona affected intake, since in the past several students entered the humanities when entry to Law was more restricted.

MANAGEMENT, QUALITY AND CONDUCT OF GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

The faculty maintained the commitment to enhance graduate studies.

- Three new Graduate Programmes were developed for implementation in the 2014/2015 academic year: Speech Language Pathology, Media Management, and Integrated Marketing Communication. A fourth, Higher Educational Management, remains under active consideration.
- New initiatives for blended learning in existing graduate programmes were adopted with the redesigning of the Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) and the Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies (MALIS) for multi modal delivery. In addition to the SVU activity mentioned above, the SOE initiated a special online delivery of the MPhil/PhD programme under arrangements for UGC-funded programmes, and approval is awaited for its delivery as part of the non-UGC funded Summer and Online Programme of the SOE.
- Two dormant graduate programmes were revived and revamped: the MPhil/PhD in Library and Information Studies and the MA in

Translation delivered by the Department of Library and Information Studies and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, respectively.

- In collaboration with the Office of Graduate Studies and Research, the faculty put on a highly successful conference for graduate students in November 2013. Themes addressed included academic regulations and funding sources for graduate students, research processes, research supervision and the reporting of research findings.
- Graduate students in the Department of History and Archaeology benefitted considerably from the presence of UWI and Australian National University Emeritus Professor Barry Higman who was a Visiting Professor for semester 2. He conducted seminars in the MA Heritage Studies programme, conducted workshops on the Writing of the Research paper for MA students, and met individually with MPhil and PhD students to discuss thesis writing. On 28 February 2014, Professor Higman presented on “The Demography of Slavery” in the weekly Staff/Graduate seminar series.

The new intake of graduate students (312) for the period under review represented an increase of 16 per cent over the previous year's figure (268). However, the overall total of graduate students (1047) for 2013/14 marginally increased over the previous year (1039). In the present financial pressures, the trend is being reversed and as of October 9, 2014, the new intake (217) reflected a decline of 30 per cent over the period under review.

Eight students were awarded PhDs, down by 50 per cent over last year's unusual high of 12, but well in keeping with the overall average trend over the preceding five years.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The scholarly production outlined in the various departmental reports indicates that the faculty has sustained its reputation for quality research.

The following represent research in the period that was funded under the

Campus' Research Fellowship and Special Initiatives Programme.

- Evaluation of the implementation of science curricula in Jamaican primary and secondary schools
- Understanding Teacher Behaviour and Practice in Jamaica
- In Search of the Innovative Teacher of CSEC English A
- Media and Information Literacy Levels at the Exit Stages of the Education System in Jamaican Schools
- Modelling Speech and Writing in the University Science Classroom.

Further, the following areas were awarded fellowships or multidisciplinary/cross faculty Grants from the Campus Research Committee. Research in some cases commenced immediately and others will be pursued during 2014/15:

- Village-Communities, Power, and Tradition in Equatorial Guinea, 1900–1968
- Participation in organized sports and its effect on delinquency in Jamaica and Barbados: an examination of Hirschi's social control theory
- An evaluation of the efficacy of INSIGHTS (psycho-education intervention) in enhancing academic skills and improving behaviour
- Sign Language dialectology in CARICOM member states.

NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

The faculty maintained its national profile with departments mounting conferences, public lectures, symposia and collaborated with public agencies in the furtherance of developmental policy. Specific mention is made of the following:

- Several departments organized workshops on the Campus and in Western Jamaica for teachers and students in support of the respective CSEC/CAPE syllabi.

- The Department of Literatures in English organized two 5-week *Creative Writers' Workshop*, a *Poetry Writers' Workshop* and a *Three-Week Speech Writing Workshop*.
- CARIMAC facilitated the growth of the Animation sector in Jamaica and the Caribbean by enrolling new certificate students in Animation programmes at both Mona and WJC. The programme in 2D Animation was the first of its kind in the region.
- The Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS), in support of Intellectual Property week in April 2014, collaborated with the Jamaica Intellectual Property Office (JIPO) to host a seminar on Intellectual Property Management in the Cultural and Creative Industries.
- The Department of History and Archaeology's graduate programme in Heritage Studies assisted the Military Museum, Up Park Camp, in the documentation of the history of the Jamaica Defence Force and assisted with research for an exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. The Department's Social History Project was also engaged in developing the Jamaica Fifty Time Capsule project under the Ministry of Youth and Culture.
- The Department of Library and Information Studies (DLIS) and the Council of Community Colleges in Jamaica (CCCJ) held advanced discussions towards articulating the Associate Degree in Library and Information Studies with the DLIS degree programme.
- The School of Education (SOE), in collaboration with Operation Save Jamaica, organized a two day symposium at the Mona Campus on *Changing the Landscape of Education with Under-Resourced Urban Schools*. One hundred and twenty-three persons from a range of entities, including teacher training institutions, the Jamaica Teachers' Association and the Ministry of Education, as well as from overseas, participated.
- The SOE hosted its annual Forum on Education under the theme The Implementation of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education: Opportunities and Challenges, at the Western Jamaica Campus. School principals, teachers and students

from high schools, as well as officials from the Ministry of Education and persons from the business sector in the western region of Jamaica attended.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The faculty developed and/ or sustained initiatives which brought important regional and international visibility to the UWI and to the Mona Campus as follows:

- Several colleagues in the Faculty continued to support the Caribbean Examinations Council's CSEC and CAPE examinations by serving on Subject Panels and as Chief and Assistant Chief Examiners in the faculty's respective disciplines.
- With the support of UNESCO, the Department of Library and Information Studies (DLIS) made significant progress in its strategic objective to develop a program in Archives/Records Management. The DLIS convened a meeting in September 2013 of a team of experts led by Professor Jeannette Bastian of Simmons College, USA, and included archivists from the UWI campuses, the Government of Jamaica, the Caribbean Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (CARBICA) and the International Council on archives (ICA) Section of Archival Education and Training. As a result, a preliminary programme in Archives and Records Management was developed and is slated to begin September 2015.
- February 2014 marked the official milestone of five years for the UWI Confucius Institute and during that month a delegation from China visited the campus and discussions were held on the construction of a Confucius Institute building to house expanded offices, exhibition areas and classroom spaces. Further strengthening of the links with China came about when in May. Professor Lu Shaogang, Chinese Director of the Confucius Institute took a team of nine high school principals to China where they engaged in discussions with Chinese educators and visited important cultural sites.

- The School of Education (SOE) signed an agreement between New York University (NYU) and the SOE giving the SOE legal rights to disseminate NYU's *INSIGHTS into Children's Temperaments* programme in Jamaica. This came about with the collaborative work of Professor Sandee McClowry (NYU), Fulbright Scholar, and Dr. Loraine Cook (SOE), who have completed the first stage (Stage 1) of the *INSIGHTS* intervention in three schools, namely, Central Branch, Alpha and John Mills Infant and Primary Schools. Funding of a total of JA\$30 million have been secured from the Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education (CHASE) Fund over three years.
- The SOE, through the initiative of Dr Lorna Down collaborated with the London South Bank University (LSBU) that proposed and was successful in gaining five Commonwealth scholarships for Caribbean students in its Distance Learning Master's programme. This is the first time that such scholarships were awarded to Caribbean students. The LSBU is one of the first UK universities to offer Education for Sustainability and has been teaching and researching in this area since 1994. It is hoped that the collaboration between UWI and LSBU will continue and that next year will see the awards of more scholarships to Caribbean nationals.

AWARDS/HONOURS

Emeritus Professor Sir Roy Augier was awarded the Order of Jamaica (OJ) for his service to History Education locally and regionally.