

Phantom UWI sport faculty?

THIS is an open letter to the Minister of Education, Anthony Garcia.

I would like it if you could shed some light on the following issue.

The University of the West Indies launched a Faculty of Sport and declared that it would be up and running in the new academic year, which is now beginning. But a prospective student can find no information on applying for a place in this faculty. The website has nothing. No programmes, nothing but the announcement of a dean and a director.

Enquiries at the university indicate that nothing has yet been put in place for this faculty. There are no new programmes as suggested. Simply put, it is not ready and there is no evidence that it will be ready to operate as a faculty any time soon.

At the high-profile launch, citizens of the region who pay for the upkeep of UWI, were given several reasons why such a faculty would be good for the region, and there is no argument there. But I am baffled as to why it would be announced that it would be

ready for this coming semester.

This information was misleading.

In light of the concerns expressed by the minister recently about educational institutions exploiting GATE, I would like to know how this will be treated. I would also like to know whether this is something that should be investigated by the Accreditation Council. Can an accredited institution offer a programme that is not accredited – and I cannot see how it can be accredited when there are no programmes specific to the faculty.

They are all existing ones. Further, if you advertise a faculty to be open in a specific semester and students decide to apply and make arrangements to do so and then find that they cannot register because the faculty is not open, and the university never indicated this, can those students sue the university?

In an environment where institutions are steadily losing public trust, there has to be some point where we scrutinise the activities of our public institutions with more diligence.

I would appreciate hearing a report from the minister on this.

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via e-mail