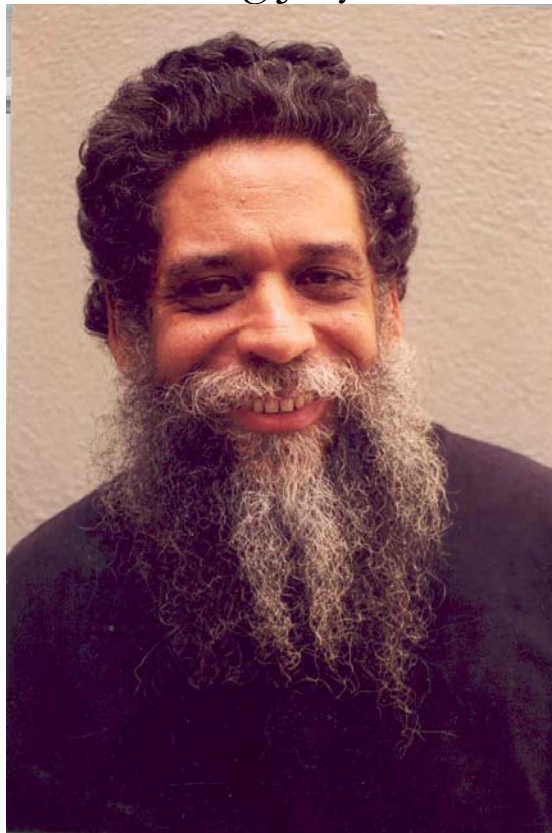


**FACULTY OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES
MONA**

Year ending July 31, 2005



Mr. Mark Figueroa, BA, MSc *UWI*, PhD *Mano*– Dean

Dean's Overview

Introduction

Along with the rest of the Mona Campus, the Faculty faced a very challenging year. This was made more acute by the fact that it was the year of transition for the new Dean and Deputy Dean. In addition, the Head of the Centre of Hotel and Tourism Management resigned during the year and the Dean took on the additional role as Head of Department ad interim. Fortunately, the Dean was able to rely heavily on the Deputy Dean, Stanford Moore, who had previously served in the post, as well as, a number of experienced and dedicated administrative staff in addition to the support of Heads of Departments and other colleagues at all levels in the Faculty.

Despite the challenges, the Faculty continued to expand in excess of the Strategic Plan targets for intake of students. New programmes have been prepared at the undergraduate and post graduate levels, facilities have expanded, and new techniques applied. The research output of the Faculty showed a significant increase even while academic staff continues to participate in a wide range of conferences and provide varying services to the national, regional and international community.

Access

In the first year of the Strategic Plan 2002-07, the Faculty had already exceeded the targets for growth in student numbers (in full time student equivalents) set for the entire plan period. Despite this, student numbers have continued to grow. For the first three years of the planned period the average growth rate was approximately 10% in contrast to the target of 1.4%. In 2004-2005 growth was just below this average being approximately 7%.

In an attempt to be more responsive to demand, the initiative was taken to accept, in January, students who had applied for entry in the previous August. This represents a significant movement in the direction of flexibility and seeks to maximise the use of available space in light of the fact that there are students who complete their programme in December every year.

The Faculty has in recent years received a number of new requests to extend the franchising of its programmes. This has presented a difficult situation for the Faculty as it has found that with its resources stretched so thin and the absence of specialists to deal with this process it has had to decline a number of requests that relate to programmes in Management Studies. The Faculty has thus far been able to show greater flexibility with respect to its programmes in Public Sector Management and took the decision to begin the process of review of the Police Staff College in keeping with a request to extend its current franchise to the second year of the Public Sector Management programme. MIND had already begun this programme during the year.

Enhancing Quality/ Student Centeredness

During the academic year, the Departments of Economics and Government underwent their regular external quality assurance review and received generally favourable reports. Follow up meetings have been held to consider the recommendations of the review teams and to identify ways of implementing these. The Department of Management Studies also completed much of its preparation for its review which was scheduled to take place at the beginning of 2005-2006.

The Faculty Staff/Student Liaison Committee was strengthened during the year and met regularly. Consultations were completed within the Faculty Staff/Student Liaison Committee on a Code of

Conduct for Instructional Sessions which was approved by the Faculty Board. Preliminary discussions were also held regarding a general Faculty code of conduct. These developments are symptomatic of the challenges the Faculty faces as it adjusts to much larger numbers and the need to cope with a situation where persons from widely varying backgrounds are forced to share a more and more densely packed common space.

In coming to terms with increased numbers, departments have turned to the greater use of new technologies. The greater use of the internet and intranet signal the coming of an age of multimode learning. During the year the Faculty took steps in this direction with the preparation for on-line delivery in a number of programmes. In some courses on-line tutorials were introduced. In many others, students now receive much of their learning material through on-line facilities.

The Faculty constantly tries to respond to the demand for new programmes that meet the changing needs of students. This year a new major in Anthropology at the undergraduate level was designed along with courses in this field at the Masters level. Plans were also completed for the part time MSc in Accounting which has received an overwhelming response. Plans were made for the launching of both this programme and the full time version on a self financing basis along with two new self financing programmes. These are the MSc in National Security and Strategic Studies in the Department of Management Studies and a PhD in Organisational Behaviour in the Department of Sociology Psychology and Social work.

Producing quality work and responding to students' needs cannot be done without adequate facilities. During the year, the Faculty found itself hard pressed due to longstanding limitations on resources made worse by the severe budget cuts. Despite this the Faculty was able to fully occupy the new McIntyre Building although some fixtures still need to be completed. A major positive development was the bringing on stream of the new Computer Lab Six which increased our lab capacity available to students by approximately 30 percent.

At the Centre for Hotel and Tourism Management in The Bahamas, significant improvements were made in the student accommodation. Four of the ten Government-owned residences were demolished. Private residences have been substituted for those that were taken down and the others were upgraded at a cost of US\$245,000. The IT infrastructure has also been upgraded to facilitate ease of student access to the internet and through the newly appointed post of Student Service Manager; students have been exposed to sessions to assist them in obtaining employment in the hospitality and tourism industry.

At Mona, approval was given for expenditure of JA\$35M on the expansion of office space and class rooms. This is much needed but in the meanwhile there are significant problems to be addressed. Without a significant injection of capital and an enhancement of the Faculty's budget the Faculty will not be able to maintain quality service to its growing number of students.

Research

The Table below indicates that the research output of the Faculty has remained at approximately the same level for a few years. In an effort to achieve a steady improvement in performance a Research Funding Committee has been formed, which has established guidelines as to "how" and "for what" members of staff may apply for the limited Faculty Funds available for research. In 2005-2006 this Committee will begin to look at how it can assist members of staff in the accessing other research grants. Permission has been obtained for the employment of a programme officer in the Faculty whose job will be in part to assist members of the Faculty with the development of grant proposals. It is hoped that these and other initiatives will see continued growth in the research output of the Faculty.

Dept	Books/	Book	Journal	Total
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	Monographs			Chapters			Articles					
	2002-2003-2004-			2002-2003-2004-			2002-2003-2004-			2002-2003-2004-		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
ECON	0	2	2	0	2	7	9	5	8	9	9	17
GOVT	0	4	3	9	14	11	6	4	19	15	22	33
DOMS	2	2	0	6	2	3	16	5	9	24	9	12
MSB	1	7	1	0	0	1	4	1	0	5	8	2
SALISES	4	5	4	3	9	0	6	9	4	13	23	8
SPSW	3	1	2	8	2	1	8	8	5	19	11	8
CHTM	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Total	10	21	12	26	29	24	49	32	46	85	82	82

Resources

With respect to every conceivable resource, the Faculty of Social Sciences is facing severe challenges. Space is limited, the budget was severely cut, and many staff members are at an early stage of the development of their careers. The uncompetitive nature of salaries in a wide range of disciplines accompanied by the very rapid expansion of student intake in a number of subjects has left the Faculty relying to a great extent on young members of staff, many of whom have not yet had an opportunity to complete their doctoral studies.

The demands in recent years for the development of new programmes has also meant that quite a few colleagues have had to be reinventing themselves so as to be able to present material in novel areas. The community served by the UWI also places great demands on the Faculty as our members of staff are constantly being called upon to serve public, commercial and civil entities. Whereas the Faculty is happy to be of service to the community in this way and whereas it always seeks to renew its curriculum there is a limit to what its resources can do.

For a long time the Faculty has sought to supplement its resources through its Summer School programme. More recently efforts have been made to widen the range of programmes offered. Self financing programmes have also been a significant source of revenue. These can be seen as positive developments but they also draw on the same resource pool making it more difficult for the Faculty to focus on its contribution in the area of research.

Conclusion

The Faculty had a difficult year. Once more, it excelled in its ability to use a very limited resource base, yet respond to a range of needs. The Faculty's continued expansion of access and its responsiveness, manifest in the development of new programmes, are considerable achievements. Its continued contribution to the community through various forms of public service is also notable. At the same time it has to take stock with respect to where it is going and what it can achieve. As we move into the consultative phase, towards the preparation of the 2007-2012 Strategic Plan, the Faculty will have the opportunity to review these issues and chart a clear direction that is creative but realistic.