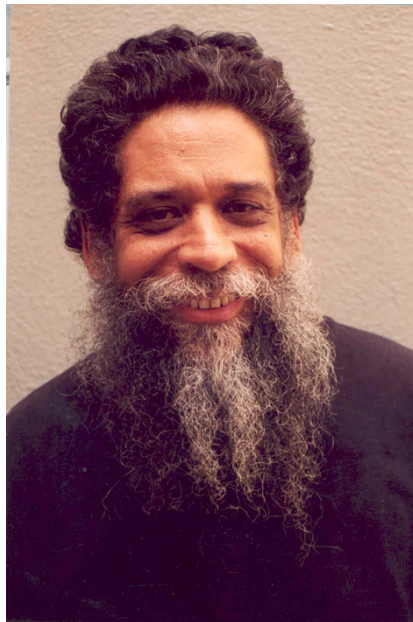


**FACULTY OF  
SOCIAL SCIENCES  
MONA**

**Year ending July 31, 2006**



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

# *Overview*

## **Introduction**

**T**he academic year once more saw significant changes in the leadership of the Faculty. At the Centre of Hotel and Tourism Management Mr Berkley Williamson was appointed Programme Director in March 2006. At the end of the year both the Department of Government and the Department of Management Studies saw a change of Head of Department as Professor Stephen Vascianne and Dr Anne Crick demitted office and Professor Anthony Harriott and Dr Noel Cowell took up office in their respective departments.

During the year the Faculty continued to advance the application of Information and Communication Technologies to improve the delivery of teaching and to increase administrative efficiency. These represented some of the efforts being made to respond to students needs. Considerable effort was made to facilitate research output by staff. Income diversification remained a focus and efforts were initiated to pay greater attention to the positioning of the Faculty and the marketing of its outputs.

## **Use of ICTs for Improved Teaching and Administration**

The Faculty has employed additional Information Communication Technology specialists to facilitate the development of projects aimed at improved teaching delivery and administrative efficiency. This has facilitated the promotion of greater use of online support for courses utilizing the OurVLE platform. The Department of Economics, which has gone the furthest along this track, now has all courses up to level two formatted for online supported instruction utilizing the OurVLE platform.

In the area of administration, the Faculty Office completed the internal work necessary to launch an online system for student requests. The

current system now involves thousands of requests that are handled utilizing paper forms, which require that students come, in person, to the Faculty Office. It was expected that this system would have been launched in August 2006 but the delay in the arrival of new server capacity and other problems faced by the Mona Information Technology Services Division (MITS) have meant that the new system will have to be introduced later in the 2006-2007 academic year.

In cooperation with MITS, the Faculty pioneered the implementation of new timetabling software. Cooperation was also ongoing with respect to the development of online HR systems relating to leave management, recruitment and reports.

### **Responding to Student Needs**

Various efforts have been made to provide students with greater opportunities to improve their life skills and make them more work ready. There has been a growing effort to provide internship opportunities for students. This includes the very successful Caribbean Internship Project for which the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work has been able to obtain extensive funding and which provides opportunities throughout the Caribbean. The newly established Centre for Political Leadership and Governance also provided opportunities for students to do internships with the Jamaican Parliament.

Curriculum review remained high on the Faculty's agenda. A review has been initiated at the Centre for Hotel and Tourism Management (CHTM) with respect to the programmes so as to ensure greater articulation with the community colleges throughout the Caribbean. This has become necessary as an increasing number of students are being recruited from these institutions.

### **Promotion of Research**

The Faculty Office in collaboration with the departments put in place a programme to encourage junior colleagues to complete their doctoral dissertations where they had not yet done so. For the year, five members of staff were provided with teaching relief for one semester so as to facilitate the completion of their theses. In addition, other young colleagues were granted similar support either by their departments or by the Campus staff development fund.

The Faculty Research Funding Committee established a calendar of meetings during the year at which applications for support from staff and

graduate students were considered. In the past it has been recognized that colleagues present many papers at conferences but they often do not convert these into publications. During the year a fund was established which is dedicated to facilitate the production of refereed publications from the various conferences held within the Faculty.

A number of conferences and seminars which represent the type from which we can expect to see future publications were organized within the Faculty this year. Notable were the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Caribbean and International Social Work Educators' Conference and the conferences held in honour of two outstanding personalities. Professor Barry Chevannes who had retired from the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work having served as Dean for two terms and Richard Hart, historian and activist, who was awarded an honorary degree by the University at the 2005 graduation. Colleagues also participated in other similar conferences that involved cooperation across faculties. One example was the conference on Caribbean Migrations Forced and Free.

Support was air marked for two publications arising from conferences put on by the Centre for Caribbean Political Thought. Meanwhile the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies showed the way by producing two volumes of the journal Social and Economic Studies which were dedicated to the conference held in March 2005 highlighting the work of Sir Arthur Lewis. Other journals associated with the Faculty have adopted a similar approach and will be eligible for support.

The provision of new posts in some departments allowed for the employment of persons on permanent contracts. It is hoped that with regular contracts these persons will find it possible to focus more on research. With these and other measures in place the Faculty looks forward to an increase in research output which, as the table below shows, has not increased in recent years.

At the same time, the Faculty continued to be engaged in significant areas of applied research. Reports were prepared for a wide range of national, regional and international agencies. These covered a variety of areas and in many cases a number of items were completed in a particular field or involved the interdisciplinary cooperation of colleagues from different departments. Areas covered included, Caribbean Census Reports, Expenditure on Services for Children in Jamaica, Policy Making Process in Jamaica, Production Integration in Caricom, Family Court System, Delivery of Social Services, Crime and National Security, Natural Disasters, Sugar Industry Reform, Health Services, Local Government

and Governance. The production of the Jamaica Human Development Report was one such example of interdisciplinary cooperation.

Dept.	Books/Monographs			Book Chapters			Journal Articles			Total		
	2003 2004	2004 2005	2005 2006	2003 2004	2004 2005	2005 2006	2003 2004	2004 2005	2005 2006	2003 2004	2004 2005	2005 2006
ECON	2	2	2	2	7	1	5	8	5	9	17	8
GOVT	4	3	2	14	11	17	4	19	7	22	33	26
DOMS	2	0	0	2	3	3	5	9	7	9	12	10
MSB	7	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	8	2	3
SALISES	5	4	3	9	0	3	9	4	11	23	8	17
SPSW	1	2	1	2	1	4	8	5	4	11	8	9
CHTM	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>75</b>

## Resources

Resources to deliver the programmes of the Faculty remain a challenge. The Faculty continues to have an active Summer School which provides a significant source of income. The number and value of grants for research projects have also been increasing. The successful introduction of new self funded programmes and the bringing of fees of others more in line with costs have both contributed to a diversification of funding. Examples of these are the MSc in National Security and Strategic Studies and the MSc in Accounting respectively, both in the Department of Management Studies.

Despite the demands faced by all departments within the Faculty an effort was made to keep within the budgets provided. There were few areas of over expenditure all of which were more than compensated by under expenditure in others. There were no cases identified where departments have failed to live up to expectations in this area. The ability of the Faculty to continue to stay within its budget was facilitated in part by the presence of vacancies in a number of departments. As we fill these vacancies and meet the demands imposed by increased student numbers it will be increasingly difficult to stay within the budgets provided.

## Marketing and Outreach

The Centre for Hospitality and Tourism Management (CHTM) stands out in the field of Marketing for the past year. The new Programme Director, Mr Berkley Williamson, was employed with a mandate to bring the CHTM

into closer touch with the Bahamian community. A number of steps were taken to recruit students to the programme resulting in the largest ever projected intake of Bahamian students: over 25 percent of the new students for 2006/2007. The Mona School of Business has also raised its consciousness regarding the need to develop a well articulated marketing plan. Throughout the year it sponsored a range of activities that placed it in the public eye. Significant among these were the activities of the newly established Telecommunications Policy and Management Programme. Other departments also had notable projects and programmes which were actively marketed during the period. For example, the Jamaican Economy Project which is coordinated by Dr John Rapley had a very active profile in the media. Activities were also undertaken to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the MSc Accounting programme.

Colleagues were engaged in a range of projects that brought them in touch with various segments of the community served by the UWI. Professor Rupert Lewis acted as chair of the Friends of Liberty Hall, which supports the Liberty Hall – Legacy of Marcus Garvey Project in downtown Kingston. The Centre for Leadership and Governance under the leadership of Professor Munroe engaged in a number of activities including the development of an internship programme for students who had the opportunity to work with the Jamaican Parliament. Colleagues associated with the Centre for Public Safety and Justice including the Director, Professor Chevannes, along with Mr Horace Levy continued their work in the area of peace making in the communities surrounding the Campus and further afield. Many colleagues were involved in a wide range of training activities that involved local, regional and international participants. Notable among these was Dr Lucy Eugene who continued to play a coordinating role for the UWI/WTO training course. The Honours Society continued its community service activities and cooperated with the Faculty Office to raise funds to donate a fax machine to Hope Valley Experimental School.

### **Conclusion**

The Faculty continues to excel in the area of providing access to higher education in conditions of severe resource shortage. In light of this, efforts have been adopted to apply new technologies to overcome some of the resource constraints. The Faculty has an outstanding record of public service that is complemented by the extensive work in policy relevant research. At the same time it is hoped that the efforts to promote research will produce greater results in the near future.

