DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Claremont Kirton, BSc, MSc UWI – Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Economics maintained its fairly successful performance in academic year 2007/8 by meeting some of its critical targets while making progress towards achieving most of the others.

Targets achieved include:

- Completion of comprehensive plan for reform of the Department's undergraduate curriculum which will lead to enhanced teaching and learning.
- Exceeded target of five courses for Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) implementation; completed seven courses.
- 85% of all first and second year courses are available at 'Internet based' levels (second highest level of Online facility) and have course containers on OurVLE.
- Training all second and third year lecturers in OurVLE techniques.
- All Economics students have access to the Department's Online Lecture Facility (OLF) that features audiovisual presentations on Math based problems.
- 90% of all lecturers trained in OurVLE use.
- 80% of all taught courses using multimedia techniques.
- Average lecturer student rating score of 3.9 (target 4.0).
- Successful implementation of undergraduate and graduate orientation programmes.
- Strengthening relations with Departments of Economics on other UWI campuses.
- Perfect record of submission of all examination papers and grades on time.
- Appraisals of all academic and administrative staff completed on time.
- Academic conference to honour Professor Alfred Francis.

The factors contributing to these successes include:

- Continued support via access to information and advice from the Human Resources Department, Student Records, Office of Graduate Studies and Research, Bursary, Admissions and Examinations Sections resulting mainly from the very cordial relations developed with their respective staffs.
- Valuable assistance from and successful collaboration with the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences in a number of key areas.
- Maintenance of the functions of the Administrative section of the Department, in spite of one (1) permanent staff member being on leave for the year, as well as another being absent for an extended period due to illness.
- With one notable exception, relations between the administrative and academic staff were affable. There has been an increase in the level of support and co-operation from sections of the academic staff, notably the junior staff.
- The main constraints experienced included:
  - The ongoing problem of insufficient senior staff in leadership roles. The Department still has no Professor and three of the senior lecturers were on leave. In addition, one of our specialist lecturers was on Fellowship leave.
  - Lack of cooperation from some lecturers, especially in areas of administrative support and University service.
  - Problems emanating from the internationally uncompetitive emoluments received by current permanent academic staff which seriously impact their levels of motivation and
commitment and severely constrain the ability of the Department to attract new staff in the international market.

- Insufficient classroom space.
- Separation from the Department of Dr. Karl Petrick who returned to teach in his native USA; and Dr. Kurshid Kiani who did not renew his contract.

Among the most important targets for AY2008/2009 are:

**Curriculum**

- Score of 4.0 on student assessments as the benchmark for lecturers and courses.
- 25% increase in number of courses utilising "industry experts" as guest lecturers.
- At least one visiting lecturer (for a module in one course) from Department of Economics St. Augustine and Cave Hill campuses respectively, and at least one lecturer from Mona to visit and present a teaching module in one course at St. Augustine and Cave Hill campuses.
- Internal review of all courses in Banking and Finance degree programme.
- Completion of financial sector needs survey for Banking and Finance graduates.
- Implementation of two new courses - one in Economics and one in Banking and Finance.
- Implementation of Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) techniques in at least 14 courses.
- Finalise pilot project in Speaking Across the Curriculum (SAC).
- Prepare and post 20 Online lectures.

**Research output**

- Each academic staff member to complete at least one refereed and one non-refereed publication.
**Income generating activities**

- J$20 million in income generated via teaching programmes, short courses and research projects.

**Other**

- As part of increasing the public profile of the Department, initiate the Department of Economics Distinguished Lecture Series and hold at least three public lectures in the Series.

**Staff**

A summary of the Department’s Teaching Assessment for AY 2007/08 is presented in the Table below. The Department scored 4.0 and over in both Semesters for lecturer preparation, knowledge of subject area, punctuality, and accessibility; the average grade for Lecturer assessment was 3.9 or just below the Department’s target. However, there needs to be improvements in some areas including development of intellectual self-confidence of students, and inspiring student interest and grasp of the subject area. The Department is seeking to develop creative methods which target upgrading the teaching skills in those areas as well as focusing on those lecturers whose performance is below the Department’s average.

### Summary of Teaching Assessment 2007-2008

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<tr>
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<th>Sem I</th>
<th>Sem II</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecturer</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was usually well prepared</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was knowledgeable on the subject matter</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspired interest in the subject matter</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Was usually punctual</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used effective teaching methods and/or aids</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explained the material clearly</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adequately responded to questions from students</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was helpful in developing my intellectual self confidence</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was helpful in developing my grasp of the subject</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was approachable outside of lecture hours</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Undergraduate Programme

There were 320 students graduating from the Department’s programmes at the end of the academic year. These were shared almost equally (43% of total each) between Economics (Majors and Minors) and Banking and Finance (Special Degree). Twenty-six (or 8% of total) received First Class Honours, with 12 of these in Banking and Finance.

Graduate Programme

Enrolment in the Department’s MSc Economics programme totalled 52 for the academic year, while there were 6 graduate students in the International Economics and International Law programme taught jointly with the Department of Government. Nineteen students completed the MSc Economics programme, with three obtaining distinctions.

Links with Departments of Economics across UWI Campuses

As part of its contribution to “strengthening regionality” in the context of the implementation of UWI’s Strategic Plan (2007-2012), the Department of Economics, Mona is leading the process of strengthening links among the three Departments of Economics (DOEs) across the UWI campuses. A Committee comprising Heads and selected members from the three campuses of Mona, Cave Hill and St. Augustine has been established. Its objectives include development of course offerings which are harmonized across the campuses; video-conferences and lectures; and regular exchange of lecturers (and possibly students) across the three Departments, as well as development of joint cross Campus research projects.

Dr. David Tennant (undergraduate co-ordinator), Dr. Karl Petrick (graduate co-ordinator), Mrs. Kelly-Ann Dixon-Hamil (BESS) co-ordinator along with Claremont Kirton (Head of Department) represented the Department at the Faculty of Social Sciences Cross Campus Conference in Trinidad and Tobago from 28th - 30th February, 2008. Claremont Kirton chaired the Cross Campus Disciplinary Group on Banking and Finance.

Visiting lectures

Prof. Dennis Pantin (Department of Economics, UWI, St. Augustine): “Sustainable Development and the Environment”.

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CSME, Secretariat; Barbados Fair Trading Commission; Jamaica Fair Trading Commission: “Competition Policy and Law in the Caricom Single Market and Economy”.

(via UWIDEC teleconference from the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB)), Professor Paul Romer, Stanford University: “Economic Growth Issues”

PAPERS PRESENTED

Abdulkadri, Abdullahi Dr


Figueroa, Mark Mr

• “Food Production for World Development and Other Lessons: Getting Past Lewis’s Detractors to What We Can Still Learn from Lewis”, Arthur Lewis Distinguished Lecture Series, UWI, St Augustine, June 11, 2008, pp. 18.


Ghartey, Edward E. Dr


Kirton, Claremont Mr


- (with Tennant, David and Abdulahi Abdulkadri) “Modelling the Relative Effects of Financial Sector Functions on Economic Growth in a Developing Country Context Using Cointegration and Error Correction Methods”, Department of Economics/
Lloyd, Amaghionyeodiwe Dr


Peralta, Maiju Dr


Tennant, David Dr


Terrelonge, Sophia Ms


• “Sustainable Development and Climate Change in the Caribbean”, Caribbean Centre for Monetary Studies (CCMS) Conference in Belize, November 2007, pp. 1-40.


Witter, Michael Dr

• “The EPA: threats and prospects for the Caribbean”, Seminar organized by SALISES and FES, Mona, March 5, 2008


Whitely, Patrice Dr

• “Testing the Monetary Model of Exchange Rate Determination: Evidence from Latin America”, 10th Annual

Urquhart, Mikhail-Ann Ms


PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Articles

Abdulkadri, Abdullahi Dr


Figueroa, Mark Mr


* (with Anthony Harriott and Nicola Satchell). “The Political Economy of Jamaica’s Inner-City Violence, A Special Case?”,
Ghartey, Edward E. Dr


Kirton, Claremont Mr


Lloyd, Amaghionyeodiwe Dr


Perala, Maiju Dr


Tennant, David Dr


Technical Reports

Kirton, Claremont Mr.


**Witter, Michael Dr**


* Situation Analysis of the Montego Bay Hip Strip, prepared for PA consultants and TPDCo, February 2008


* The Impact of the Doubling of NHT Benefits on the Market for Mortgage Finance, prepared for the Building Societies Association

**PUBLIC SERVICE**

**Abdulkadri, Abdullahi Dr**

– Session Chair, Southwestern Economics Association Annual Meetings

– Reviewer, Ecological Economics
Figueroa, Mark Dr
- Member, Board of Directors: Jamaica Environment Trust

Ghartey, Edward E. Dr
- Member, Review Team, Department of Economics, Cave Hill Campus
- Associate Editor, Frontiers in Finance and Economics
- Advisory Board Member, International Banking, Economics and Finance Association
- Editorial Board Member, Opus One Journal of Undergraduate Studies
- Reviewer, Applied Economics and Economic Modelling

Kirton, Claremont Mr
- Chairman, Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE)
- Panel of Judges, JSE Broker Analysts’ Market Research Competition

Tennant, David Dr
* Member, Government of Jamaica’s Steering Committee responsible for Reforming the Public Sector Pensions System and the National Insurance Scheme
* Member, Board of Commissioners of the Financial Services Commission
* Chairman, Board Pensions Committee
* Member, Board Insurance and Human Resource Administration Committees
* Chairman, Education Committee at the Church of Christ (Mona)

Witter, Michael Dr
- Chairman, Board of RADA
- Member, Board of Directors, Agricultural Support Services Fund
– Member, Monitoring Committee for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of Jamaica and the Unions representing Public Sector workers
– Chairman, Poverty Task Force, National Plan of Jamaica
– Member, Oversight Committee of the Forest Conservation Fund

Prizes Awarded:

**Abdulkadri, Abdullahi Dr**

2008 Best Publication Award, Faculty of Social Sciences, UWI, Mona

**Lloyd, Amaghionyeodiwe Dr**

New Initiative Grant Funding, University of the West Indies, Mona, on “Public Expenditure and Growth in Developing Countries: A Case Study of Sub-Saharan Africa and Caribbean Countries”

**Tennant, David Dr**

Principal’s Academic High Flyers Award for outstanding academic performance, The University of the West Indies, 2007.