

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

MONA

Year ending July 31, 2007



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

Overview

Introduction

For the second year running, two departments experienced a change in leadership. Dr Michael Witter (Economics) and Professor Ian Boxill (Sociology, Psychology and Social Work) were replaced by Messrs Claremont Kirton and Clement Branche respectively. At the end of the Academic year portfolios were identified for four Associate Deans with a view to strengthening the leadership of the Faculty in preparation for the implementation of the 2007-2012 Plan. The establishment of a cadre at this level brings the Faculty more in line with other faculties. These posts were filled by Drs Anne Crick, Aldrie Henry-Lee, Michael Witter and Professor Evan Duggan.

During the year the Faculty lost a number of long serving members of staff. The contributions of some of these are acknowledged in the departmental reports. The Faculty Office notes with regret the death of Mr Clive “Bunny” Johnson who served for sixteen years most recently as a Chief Office Attendant.

The Faculty Office continued its efforts to enhance the Faculty’s capacity to provide students with a more enriching experience while promoting the academic staff’s ability to undertake research and the entire Faculty’s ability to design and implement projects. This was done by strengthening the work of the different Faculty committees, continuing to focus on administrative reform, employment of specialized project staff, enhancement of facilities and the promotion of capacity building activities relating to research.

Student Centred Initiatives

During the year the Faculty’s programme to equip all class rooms with multimedia projectors was completed and resources were obtained to

re-equip one computer lab. This is to be brought into operation on a twenty-four hour basis primarily to meet the needs of post graduate students. A programme for the provision of additional electrical outlets (indoor and outdoor) was designed to promote the use of laptops by students who are in a position to take advantage of the growing number of wireless hotspots. The Faculty of Social Sciences Meeting Point which provides an area where students can gather without fear of disturbing classes or offices was expanded and provided with additional lighting for night time usage.

The Faculty participated in the pilot programme to make early firm offers to full time students based on their CAPE unit 1 results. This meant that many more applicants were in a position to know from an early date that they would be coming to UWI. Undergraduate and postgraduate coordinators from all departments began working more closely together so as to facilitate a smoother process of orientation and registration. This involved a sharing of experiences and exchanging best practices that has impacted on first impressions that new students have of UWI and the ease with which they make their entry into the University community. Out of this initiative the policy of involving students in the Faculty's orientation and registration programme has been expanded.

The Faculty Staff Student Liaison Committee had a very active year during which the focus was on developing a range of policies to enhance the teaching and learning environment. The Committee completed a general code of conduct for students, a job description for student class representatives, along with other draft policies. The Department of Economics completed the first round of its curriculum review at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. It also advanced its use of online instruction towards its goal of having all first and second year courses Internet Optimized and all third year courses Internet Supported by the end of 2008. The Department of Management Studies also continued with its programme of putting its courses in an online format and other departments expanded their use of the Web in the promotion of teaching and learning.

New Programmes

A new Major in Gender Studies is to be offered in the Department of Sociology Psychology and Social Work in conjunction with the Centre for Gender and Development Studies. The Mona School of Business

(MSB) completed its preparation to admit the first group of students for its Masters in Telecommunications Policy and Technology Management and for its Doctor in Business Administration in January 2008. The MSB implemented a number of courses focusing on the “soft skills” in its programmes and reintroduced its Executive Development Courses covering topics in Business Communication, Financial Management, Project Management, Negotiation and Telecommunications Policy & Technology Management. MSB now offers MBA options that allow students a wide variety of part-time and full-time alternatives covering all seven days of the week.

During the year, the Faculty began to prepare itself for its role in the establishment of the UWI Western Jamaica Campus. Teaching is expected to start in September 2008 with programmes in General Management, Accounting, Management Information Systems, Banking and Finance as well as Hospitality and Tourism Management. Discussions continued with TLIs concerning the offering of franchised programmes. These included Moneague College which wishes to offer the BSc in Social Work and the Jamaica Constabulary Staff College which expressed an interest in delivering the first year of the Public Sector Management Programme and the Management Institute for National Development with respect to offering year three of the same programme. The Centre for Hotel and Tourism Management developed five new courses with a view to expanding the electives available to students. These will be especially relevant to students who come to the Centre having completed an Associate Degree.

Promoting Research

Two of the five junior colleagues who had been granted time off to complete their doctoral dissertations completed their programme during the year and a third submitted a draft of her thesis. A sixth colleague was identified for time off during the academic year 2007-2008. The Faculty continued to provide funds for colleagues wishing to attend research training seminars and support was continued for presentation at conferences. A three day writers’ workshop was hosted by Management Studies in association with Sociology, Psychology and Social Work. In total staff presented at more than 100 international, regional and national conferences, special lectures, seminars and workshops.

The Faculty also participated in the hosting of similar activities. Among these were conferences on Promoting Child Research; Shifting the

Geography of Reason IV: Intellectual Movement; and the Impact of Climate Change on the Caribbean. These were co-sponsored by SALISES and the Child Development Centre; the Centre for Caribbean Thought and the Department of Language Linguistics and Philosophy; and the Department of Economics and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre respectively. Two professors delivered their inaugural lectures: Brian Meeks on “Imagining the Future: Rethinking the Political in Jamaica” and Patricia Anderson on “Jamaican Fathers: Between Culture and Economy”.

Research Achievements

Academic research and publications during the year covered topics including: economic growth, forecasting recessions, money, banking and the financial sectors and their regulation, taxation and fiscal policy, agricultural policy; software/information and communication technologies, media and communication, and management information systems in Jamaica and the Caribbean; Caribbean tourism; human resource, labour and human and social capital, labour markets and the informal sector in the Caribbean and Africa; family, woman owned and small businesses; sustainability, disasters, and the environment; local government reform, Caribbean politics, political culture, corruption, governance and political systems; small states, foreign policy, international law and international relations; gender issues; population, population movements and the Caribbean and African Diasporas; crime (economic and violent) and their control; race and the legacy of emancipation; poverty, and social policy; health, HIV/AIDS and the economics of health; tertiary education financing, accreditation, quality assurance and student performance; child rights, child care, child abuse, and juvenile delinquency; Caribbean language and language policy, Caribbean culture, art, fiction and the achievements of Caribbean thought. The table below provides a comparative study of publications produced over the last three academic years.

Dept	Books/Monographs			Book Chapters			Journal Articles			Total		
	2004 2005	2005 2006	2006 2007	2004 2005	2005 2006	2006 2007	2004 2005	2005 2006	2006 2007	2004 2005	2005 2006	2006 2007
Econ	2	2	2	7	1	3	8	5	18	17	8	23
Govt	3	2	3	11	17	9	19	7	13	33	26	25
Doms	0	0	1	3	3	0	9	7	7	12	10	8
MSB	1	2	1	1	1	5	0	0	0	2	3	6
SALISES	4	3	2	0	3	5	4	11	4	8	17	11
SPSW	2	1	1	1	4	4	5	4	2	8	9	7
CHTM	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	2	2	1
Total	12	10	10	24	31	27	46	34	44	82	75	81

In addition, the Faculty continued to develop its work in applied research and the production of technical reports. A sample of the projects completed and or areas covered is provided as follows: E-Powering Jamaica Industry; The Evolution of Jamaica's Tax Burden and the Flat Tax on Individual Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Income in Jamaica; Needs Analysis for the Telecommunications Component of the Planned Caribbean Regulatory Research Centre; Survey of Residents' Involvement and Attitudes Towards Tourism: Barbados, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago; Implementation of Adaptation Measures to Climate Change Impact and Development of Tools to Evaluate the Economics Effects; and Formulating Sustainable Development Benchmarks for a European Union – CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement. In addition, there were reports on Social Affirmation; Higher Education in the Caribbean; and Heavy Metals in Jamaica; Telework; the Cost of Crime in Jamaica, Millennium Development Goals; and the UWI as well as Trade and Financial sector issues.

Service to the Community

Members of staff continued to provide service on a wide range of committees, boards and other bodies. These include international journals, professional organizations, educational institutions, civic, regulatory, policy making and intergovernmental organizations as well as state and private sector companies. In addition, a number of colleagues remained active participants in the media, trade union and the political arena. The Faculty Office was made aware of positions occupied by members of the Faculty numbered over 200 while many others were unreported. Some of the institutions and organizations served included: American Review of Political Economy, European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Journal of Aging in Emerging Societies, Journal of Diplomatic Language, Journal of Organizational and Enduser Computing, Caribbean Studies Association, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Jamaica, Caribbean Examinations Council, Institute of Jamaica, National Library of Jamaica, Mico College, Police Staff College, University Council of Jamaica, CVSS/United Way Jamaica, Jamaica Manufacturers Association, Michael Manley Foundation, Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica, Jamaica Bureau of Standards, Jamaica Deposit Insurance Scheme, Jamaica Financial Services Commission, Jamaica Stock Exchange, Planning Institute of Jamaica, Statistical Institute of Jamaica, Rural Agricultural Development Agency, Task Forces/

Advisory groups on Local Government Reform, National Security, Poverty and Social Welfare and Vulnerable Groups, CARICOM, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, Tobago House of Assembly, UN International Law Commission, UNESCO, UNICEF, Andrews Memorial Hospital, University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica Bauxite Trading Company, Bank of Nova Scotia Jamaica, First Caribbean International Bank, Jamaica Flour Mills, Jamaica Money Market Brokers, and National Commercial Bank.

Institutional Strengthening

The annual Faculty Day represents a mechanism that has been introduced for the enhancement of the cohesion of the Faculty. During Faculty Day staff of all ranks meet and consider issues relating to the coming academic year. There is a plenary session with the Dean, as well as break out groups, in which specific issues are covered. This has helped to build momentum for the engagement of staff in a wide range of committees and working groups currently working to build consensus within the Faculty with respect to its many challenges.

In January of 2007 a project officer was employed to assist in the development and implementation of Faculty initiatives. One of her main tasks was to assist academic staff with applications for research funding. Towards the end of the academic year an additional project officer was employed to assist with the implementation of the UWI Western Jamaica project. The Faculty continues its programme of student employment which provides academic staff with the opportunity to have a student assistant for up to 12 hours a week in support of research, teaching or administrative activities.

The 2007-2012 UWI Strategic Plan

In preparing to implement the 2007-2012 Strategic Plan, the Faculty of Social Sciences has sought to identify its priorities within the four elements of the “Core Strategic Focus” of the 2007-2012 Plan and with respect to the three “Major Enablers” and three “Other Strategic Areas of Importance”. Major activities to encourage this process started with the annual Faculty Day held on August 24, 2006 under the theme, “Strategic Planning for Transformation” and culminated in the preparation for Faculty Day, 2007 under the theme, “UWI’s Strategic Plan Implementation (2007-2012) The Faculty of Social Sciences Response”. This approach highlights the commitment of the Faculty to a process that promotes within all members of staff an understanding of

the basic elements of the Plan as well as the role they need to play.

The Faculty's primary goal is to improve the way in which students (undergraduate and postgraduate, face to face and distance) experience UWI: in terms of their study programmes as well as, the administrative processes and general conditions that they face. Increasing research output and enhancing its impact comes second. Improving the UWI's image is a third objective. Although much more can be done to promote the Faculty's work, progress in this latter area rests on success in the first two along with a strengthening of relationships within the UWI and between the UWI and the community it serves.

Considerable emphasis is being placed on "Transforming the Leadership, Managerial and Administrative Culture and Processes" as a key "Enabler" towards the achievement of the Faculty's goals. The drawing of a wider cadre into the leadership of the Faculty and the provision of concrete support in the form of research and administrative assistance is seen as crucial to the achievement of the Plan's goals. The identification of resource requirements to support the plan is essential but it must be recognized that the creation of a strategic shift has to be undertaken whatever the resource situation. As such, priorities have to be identified with respect to resource requirements.

Student Achievements

The Mona Department of Management Studies team consisting of Tiffoney Dunkley, Vanessa Hemans, Claudia Hessing, Calais Hayden, Taniesha Siley and Nicardo Niel placed first in the inaugural UWI Case Analysis Competition sponsored by First Caribbean Bank in Barbados.

During the course of 2006/07, five students completed the requirements for the PhD degree. They are as follows:

Candidate	Degree	Thesis Title
-----------	--------	--------------

Ruth Potopsingh	PhD in Sustainable Development	“Multilateral Environmental Agreements: Lessons for their Implementation in the Caribbean”
Christine Marrett	PhD in Social Policy	“Institutional Collaboration in Distance Education at the Tertiary Level in the Small Developing Countries of the Commonwealth Caribbean: To What Extent does it Enhance Human Resource Development”
Carolyn Hayle	PhD in Sustainable Development	“Understanding Tourism: A Caribbean Imperative”
K’adamawe K’nife	PhD in Sustainable Development	“Jamaica’s Governance, Planning, and Economics Underperformance 1970-2000: Could Scenario Planning and Foresighting Provide a Basis for a More Sustainable Model of Development”
Heather Ricketts	PhD in Development Studies	“Gender Discrimination and Wage Determination in the Jamaican Labour Market”

Conclusion

The Faculty has placed itself in a position to respond positively to the vision of the 2007-2012 UWI Strategic Plan. By strengthening its leaderships and reforming the way in which it conducts its work it is expected that it will continue to respond to the community it serves. Increased efforts have been made to meet the challenge of producing graduates and postgraduates with the range of skills demanded by the work place and to develop research programmes relevant to the problems of Jamaica and the wider Caribbean region while providing direct service to national, regional and international institutions.