

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Mona

Year ending July 31, 2014



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Dean

– *Dean's Overview* –

INTRODUCTION

The Academic year 2013/14 commenced with a measureable amount of changes to the management structure within the Faculty. On August 1, 2013 the Faculty welcomed the new Executive Director of Mona School of Business and Management (MSMB), Densil Williams. Professor Williams was former Deputy Executive Director, succeeding Professor Paul Simmonds who demitted office. Consequently, Lila Rao Graham was appointed acting Deputy Executive Director. Additionally, there were news heads for the Departments of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work (SPSW) and Government when Heather Ricketts succeeded Clement Branch who had been head for four years and Lloyd Waller succeeded Jessica Byron who had served as head of Government for three years. On October 1, 2013, Andrew Spencer was appointed Head and Programme Director of the Centre for Hotel and Tourism Management (CHTN), Nassau, Bahamas for a three year period initially. On the same note, the Faculty would like to acknowledge Arlene Bailey our new Associate Dean, Research and Innovation who replaced Adullahi Abdulkadri.

The Faculty would also like to highlight a few special appointments of members of staff who have been called upon to serve beyond their normal scope of duty. Mr Ralph Thomas, former Senior Research Fellow

at MSBM, has been seconded by the Campus to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade for three years initially, where he will serve as Jamaica's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China. The Appointment took effect July 2013. Professor Brian Meeks, Director of SALISES, Mona, was appointed University Director of SALISES effective August 1, 2013 and Ms. Minna Israel, Chairperson of the Board and Distinguished Business Fellow of MSBM, has been appointed as Special Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor on Resource Development, for a period of two years beginning September 2, 2013.

Faculty Day 2013 was held on August 20, 2013 under the theme "What's love got to do with it? My Faculty and Me." The primary focus for this year's event was Employee/Employer Engagement. There were presentations from representatives of the University Registrar's office and a very interesting feature on Mrs. Hermione McKenzie, Sociologist, and a former Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WORK IN THE FACULTY

The Faculty of Social Sciences continued with its distinguished George Willie Lecture Series with the second lecture on November 7, 2013, which was delivered by Mr. D. Michael Bennett, Senior Vice President, Information and Management, and chief Information Officer of BAE Systems, the multinational defence, security and aerospace company on "Technology Leadership" with, Mr Earl Jarrett, General Manager of Jamaica National as the discussant.

FINANCIALS AND PARTNERSHIPS

As part of its strategic plan to diversify and broaden its funding base, the Faculty continued to forge strategic partnerships with and obtained research funding from private and public institutions as well as other local and international educational institutions. In this regard, Dr Abdullahi Abdulkadri and collaborators received a 499,000 Euro EDULINK grant for a project titled "Promotion of Capacity and Energy

Education Development in the Caribbean Region” (PROCEED-Caribbean). PROCEED-Caribbean is a multi-institutional collaboration involving the Mona and Cave Hill campuses, UTECH, The University of Turku and Tampere University of Technology both in Finland, and the University of Oriente, Cuba. The overall objective of the project is to increase capacity and knowledge through improved higher education on energy-related issues and climate change. As part of project activities under this EU funded project, the Department of Economics hosted a workshop on energy Planning and Model during the period December 3–5, 2013 which was attended by faculty and students from UWI and UTECH, government technocrats, practitioners and energy sector stakeholders.

The Caribbean Internship Project (CIP), a partnership between the UWI Mona, St. Augustine and Cave Hill campuses, received grants amounting to US\$28,000 from the UWI to support internships in 2014. Ten interns from the disciplines of Social Work, Psychology and Education, were deployed to social service agencies in six Caribbean countries.

In an effort to encourage and foster the delivery of joint academic programmes, the Faculty has met with the Caribbean Maritime Institute (CMI) to consider a proposal for the institutional collaboration between the UWI (through the Mona School of Business and Management) and CMI. A meeting was convened in October 2013 involving representatives from both institutions at which preliminary discussions were held to evaluate the benefits that could be derived from such an arrangement. These initial discussions were very encouraging and further meetings have been planned at which the proposal will be more thoroughly reviewed.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The faculty has linked into the Employee Engagement perspective of the University’s strategic plan 2012–17, The Faculty supported the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work whose staff participated in a three-day retreat involving discussions on the corporatization of higher

education and the role of the department in local, regional and global context; the preparation of SWOT Analysis; and unit discussions regarding the growth and development of new Programmes/Specializations and the strengthening of existing degree majors. Post-retreat the findings of the SWOT analysis were shared with the Principal and the Dean. This initiative shows the commitment of staff members to develop staff competencies, strengthen performance and to reposition the Department for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

On January 18, 2014, in an effort to improve Employee Engagement, the Faculty, through its Excellence in Teaching Awards, recognized the following lecturers as outstanding. They were awarded for consistently scoring 4.5 and above (of a possible 5) over the two semesters in all courses taught in the previous academic year: Damien King, Xhano Soares, Denarto Dennis (WJC), Christine Cummings, Karen Jones-Graham, K'Adawame K'Nife, Michael Roofe, Moji Anderson, Orville Beckford, Heather Ricketts and Denise Simpson. Damien King, Head for the Department of Economics was awarded the special prize as the most outstanding lecturer 2012–13.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

The Faculty, in keeping with the UWI Strategic Plan 2012/2017, has sought to enhance academic quality to support the development of the key attributes of the UWI graduate. In this regard, the Department of Economics, in continuation with its revision of both the undergraduate and graduate curricula, received approval to change the requirements for a major in Economics. This widened students' choices and allowed students the option of satisfying the pre-requisites for majors and minors outside of the Faculty. This included the replacement of compulsory level I courses in politics and sociology with free electives. Additionally, in moving towards harmonization with the other main campuses, one compulsory second course in Calculus was replaced with an Economic elective. This flexibility will allow students with weaker mathematics skills or little ambitions to do economics at the graduate level to still be able to complete the BSc Economics.

Approval has been granted for the Department of Economics to offer a new course called the Economics of Sports. This course will explore the analytical framework used by economists in assessing the impact and value added of sport development, sport infrastructure and sporting events for the upcoming academic year.

In August 2013 SALISES welcomed its first group of students reading for the Masters in Development Studies. The new curriculum, with its emphasis on leadership training, critical thinking, advanced academic writing and exposure to a foreign language, is designed to create flexible, interdisciplinary leadership cadres able to operate at the highest levels in a variety of environments and to improve student development. Similarly, in an effort to improve academic quality, SALISES completed a scheduled review of the MPhil/PhD programme addressing curriculum changes, more rigorous entry requirements and a series of administrative improvements to strengthen throughput and the overall quality of the research graduate programme. These policies are expected to be implemented in the coming academic year.

In order to keep our staff current and updated with the changes in University policies and systems, a workshop on the revised GPA and the implications for course assessment was conducted on March 21, 2014. The main purpose was to inform and sensitize members of staff within the Faculty of the connotations of these changes for student academics.

With funding from the Organisation of American States (OAS), the faculty offered a 21-credit graduate Diploma in Social Protection spearheaded by the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work. Dr. Heather Ricketts was appointed Academic Director. This programme, conducted primarily online, is the first of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean and targets public sector officials from Caribbean Member states of the OAS, in a position to influence social protection policy. Some thirteen officials representing eight countries (Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago) have started the course, eleven of whom will graduate in the 2014 graduation ceremonies, and the other two in 2015. The programme's objectives are to:

- Build/Enhance capacity to conceptualize and design Caribbean or country specific social protection strategies, policies, programmes;
- Enhance capacity to deliver social protection programmes;
- Build/Enhance monitoring and evaluation capacity.

The anticipated outcomes of the venture include:

- The strengthened knowledge base of those who influence and make social policy and social programmes.
- The appreciation of the value of research and data to balance experimental knowledge
- The infusion of policy making with increased academic rigor.

The BSc Social Work (Special) Degree was restructured from a total of 90 required credits to 99 credits to complete the degree. Among the new changes within the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work are:

- The addition of a Human Behaviour in the Social Environment II course
- An extension of Human Behaviour in the Social Environment I
- The inclusion of higher level statistics training as a requirement
- The introduction of a Social Work Practice Skills Lab and the introduction of a new course; Social Work in Schools.

This new specialized Social Work Degree will be offered for the first time in the academic year 2014/15.

The Mona School of Business and Management and the School of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (National College for Educational Leadership), has developed the curriculum for the Principals' Professional Qualifications Programme – Aspiring Principals' Programme consisting of four modules and a practicum which will be delivered by Faculty members from the Social Sciences and the School of Education. It was officially launched at an orientation exercise held on

March 22, 2014. This initiative has been made available to both Mona and Western Jamaica Campuses.

The Faculty supports SALISES with its plans to completely refurbish its Documentation Centre. The centre is to be named in honour of the late Norman Girvan, first Director of SALISES and to establish the George Beckford room as a dedicated visitor centre, welcoming area and archival resource, housing the documents of outstanding members of the Faculty of Social Sciences. These infrastructural plans are for 2014 and beyond.

CHALLENGES

After considerable effort, air conditioning has been restored to all offices and classrooms on the Alister McIntyre Complex. We have now been able to successfully connect the complex to the UWI AC Service to obtain chilled water. This plant has effectively bypassed the previous chiller system and should result in a more effective solution to the recurring problems experienced with the system previously. Additionally, the Faculty has installed water tanks in all the necessary areas so as to maintain proper hygienic practices in the face of regular disruption of water supply from the National Water Commission.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION:

The Mona School of Business and Management, under the historic agreement signed between the UWI Mona and the National Commercial Bank (on February 20, 2014) will be conducting applied research (funded by NCB to the tune of US\$950,000) focusing on strategies for corporate renewal and transformation in the Caribbean region. The programme, which is the first of its kind, aims to generate new knowledge to guide Jamaican firms on how to develop dynamic capabilities and strategies for profitable growth. Under the terms of the agreement the research will be conducted in two phases.

- Phase 1 will be conducted over two years, from January 2014 to December 2015, and deliverables include two technical papers, a seminar and a short executive-level course for NCB.

- Phase 2 is a sponsored professional chair. The occupant of the chair will engage in a variety of scholarly activities to advance knowledge in the area, including publication of scholarly academic papers, which will also be distilled for consumption by the general public.

The Dean, Professor Evan Duggan, participated in the UWI – SUE Research Projects Meetings held on March 11 and 12, 2014 at the UWI Regional Headquarters. The meetings involved representatives from all campuses of the UWI and a delegation of researchers from Caribbean Colombia Universities (SUE Caribe), and were convened to explore possibilities for the establishment of research partnership involving the FSS, UWI and SUE Caribe.

Developing research capacity in areas of critical importance to the Caribbean and international community is of major priority in the promotion of new knowledge and innovations. The faculty recognizes that in a society of increasing technology and innovation, research is the foundation for social, cultural, economic and environmental innovations which continue to drive society forward. Consequently, during the academic year under review, several papers, journal articles, books, and book chapters were published by members. The publications covered a variety of areas including cultural differences; racial and ethnic differences in family profiles; body dysmorphic disorder; eating disorders and attitudes; depression; blackness and the demand for authenticity; intergenerational profiles and individual outcomes; migrant health and ICT's; intergenerational living arrangements and well-being in comparative prospective; multigenerational families; multigenerational issues in an aging society; domestic violence; parenting and academic achievement; body image and depressive symptoms; biracial and multiracial identity; demographic and social factors in the use of licit drugs; violence among young people; job satisfaction; housing and information; Caricom Single Market; gender and age; climate change and technology among others.

The Faculty would like to congratulate members of staff who received Research Days 2014 awards. Dr Garth Lipps and his collaborators received the Best Research Publication and Multidisciplinary/Cross-Faculty Collaboration Award for the publication entitled "Parenting and

Depression Among Adolescents in Four Caribbean Societies”; Dr Patricia Northover received the award for Best Research Publication and Most Outstanding Researcher for her publication “Abject Blackness, Hauntologies of Development and Demand for Authenticity; A Critique of Sen’s Development as Freedom”; Dr Lloyd Waller received the Best Research publication for his work on Mobile Smartphones as Tools for ‘Efficient’ and ‘Effective’ Protesting: A Case Study of Mobile Protesting in Jamaica; Professor Ian Boxill was awarded the Research Project with the greatest business/ economic/ development impact for his work on the Greater August Town Film Project. Drs Lloyd Waller and Abdullahi Abdulkadri and their collaborators received the award for the Research Project attracting the most funds for their work on “Development of a set of tools to facilitate Comparative Analysis between less developed countries within the Caricom Single Market and Economy Predictions of Agglomeration” and the Greatest Multidisciplinary/Cross-Faculty Collaboration Award went to Dr Patricia Northover, Dr Lloyd Waller and Dr Leith Dunn (from the Department of Gender Studies) for their work entitled “Mainstreaming Gender and Age in USAID’s Rural Development and Climate Change Adaptation”.

In an effort to remain relevant to the community and the general public, a number of public lectures and seminars have been held in Jamaica, the Caribbean region and internationally. Departments in the Faculty collaborated with other departments and institutes to host several public events in highlighting research and innovation. Such events included:

- A consultative session with senior managers in the public sector hosted by the Public Sector Management Unit by a team driven by Dr. Eris Schoburgh and Sonia Gatchair.
- The *IDEAZ Journal* (UWI) and *IDEAZ* (Australia) in collaboration with the Centre for Tourism and Policy Research and the Department of Government UWI hosted an international Conference on Political and Economic Change titled “The Remaking of Global Hegemony” in February 2014 at the UWI Regional Headquarters.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

The Mona School of Business and Management (MSBM), in partnership with the University of Technology, Northern Caribbean University, The Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ), the Development Bank of Jamaica and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) established the National Business Model Competition (NBMC), geared at stimulating greater levels of entrepreneurship. Neville Graham and Trudy McCurchin (MSBM students) earned second place in the inaugural competition held on March 7, 2014 at the Jamaica Conference Centre. The students were awarded for their product, “Jam Lamb” which focused on the distribution of high quality Jamaican lamb meat throughout the island. Similarly, the Faculty wishes to congratulate Alicia Brown and Ana-Kay Green, MBA students from MSBM who were winners of the Opportunity Funding Corporation Venture Challenge (OFVC) competition held on April 10–13, 2014 in Atlanta, Georgia. The students won the overall competition as well as awards for Best Presentation and best business plan making this the university’s third time winning the competition over a four year period.

The Faculty is also pleased to highlight the work of Sherry Perrier, a final year Banking and Finance student, on being offered a scholarship to attend the 17th World Business Dialogue Youth Conference in Germany from March 13–14, 2014. The World Business Dialogue is a business conference hosted by the University of Cologne, and is one of the world’s largest international conventions organized by students. It seeks to bring together “the leaders of today with the leaders of tomorrow to analyze and discuss important topics in today’s global economy”. Ms Perrier was one of the 300 international delegates present at the conference selected from a highly competitive pool of over 1400 international applicants.

Once again the Faculty facilitated the participation of several graduate students and lecturers from the Department of Economics in the Annual Conference of the Southwestern Economics Association in San Antonio, Texas from April 16–19, 2014. A total of eleven papers were submitted by our graduate students in addition to papers presented by three

lecturers; Christine Clarke, Alecia Evans and Abdullahi Abdulkadri. Two of the graduate students; Donya Brown and Kemar Whyte were tied for the third place prize in the Graduate Students' Paper Competition for their papers entitled "Export elasticities and export performance; Evidence from OECD countries" and "Investigating the interactions between capital buffers, credit and output growth: Evidence from the Jamaican banking sector," respectively.

CONCLUSION

In the academic year 2013/14 the Faculty, in keeping with the UWI 2012–17 Strategic Plan, has aimed to sensitize members of staff to its aims and objectives academically, financially, internally and externally in accordance with the overall mission of the University. In recognition of the need for financial diversification the Faculty has sought other sources of funding for research and innovation from private and public organizations both locally and internationally. The Faculty recognizes the need for Employee Engagement within the work place and has taken several steps to identify and implement solutions to improve working conditions to enhance employee development and confidence.

Academic quality is of utmost importance to the Faculty. The Faculty, in ensuring excellence of academic processes, continues to develop plans and procedures to improve and harmonize the curriculum of both undergraduate and graduate programme offerings. Systems have also been implemented to improve our ability to recruit and retain high-quality students. The Faculty promotes and supports research and development by creating and implementing supportive policies, offering incentives for research, recognizing accomplishments as well as garnering funding and sponsorships through collaborations or grants from local and international institutions. The Faculty prides itself in its research and innovation and continues to support cutting-edge research and inventive products from its faculty and staff.