

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION

Mona

Year ending July 31, 2017



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Overview

INTRODUCTION

The year under review, whilst marking the end of the Strategic Plan which began in 2012, also provided a platform for continuity with the next Strategic Plan which begins in August 2017. Hence, whilst still completing the tasks set under the existing Plan, the Faculty also began to realign certain internal academic and administrative processes to achieve a seamless transition to the new Plan. Anticipating the emphasis on increasing access to tertiary education as contained in the next Plan, including the urgent need for this Faculty to reverse its declining student enrolment, efforts were redoubled to achieve the following six interrelated strategic objectives. First: reverse the declining student enrolment through the provision of more flexible, market-responsive, and multidisciplinary programmes. Second: rethink, redress and reaffirm the relevance of the Humanities in the context of globalization largely driven by changes in information communication technologies. Third: continue with the ongoing efforts to refurbish the ageing physical structures in order to enhance the attractiveness of the learning environment. Fourth: since the delivery capacity of the learning environment is also dependent on its effective administration, fine-tune existing mechanisms for achieving employee engagement, including efficiency in the internal operational processes, in order to respond with greater agility to challenges in the global marketplace for tertiary education. Fifth: promote the UWI brand

nationally and regionally through public outreach activities. Sixth: with a view to strengthening the image of the University as a globally competitive provider of tertiary education in the Caribbean, seek international partnerships for promoting knowledge production through research and teaching. As a narrative of activities pursued through the Faculty Office and the various Departments, the subheadings below have been informed by these intertwined strategic objectives.

INCOME GENERATION

The drive for financial self-sufficiency was a strategic objective pursued via the introduction of self-financing programmes. In addition to the existing self-financing undergraduate and graduate programmes, the following new ones were introduced: Bachelor of Arts in Librarianship; Bachelor of Arts in Information Studies; and Master of Arts in Archives and Record Management.

An existing sixty-six (66) credit first degree programme in Education, having been revised for multimodal delivery, was added to the growing list of self-financing programmes. This programme is set to benefit from a scholarship scheme recently put in place by the government of Jamaica for practicing teachers who have been required by the Jamaican Ministry of Education to upgrade their professional qualifications. The revision of this programme, whilst showing our quest for financial self-sufficiency, also showed our readiness to pursue the goals of “access,” “agility,” and “alignment” in the new Plan.

The Faculty also aggressively sought other ways of commercializing the intellectual resources at its disposal in order to diversify its earnings. The newly established “Caribbean Center for Educational Planning” in the School of Education, which is now poised to bid for projects in the areas of educational planning and policy formulation, amply demonstrated entrepreneurial appetite. The idea of earning additional revenue also induced various Departments to offer courses during the just concluded Summer School in July 2017. Across Departments, including the Faculty Office, efforts to leverage the benefits of information communication

technology in the administrative processes in order to achieve financial benefits through cost reduction over time were also pursued.

Finally, the FHE “Benefit Fund” for students, it may be recalled, was established in September 2015. During the year under review the “FHE Fundraising Committee” organized a number of fundraising activities to boost this account. Fully expanded and implemented over a longer period, this initiative has the potential of enhancing the student-centered image of the Faculty. This is because it could, in combination with other factors, minimize the number of students who might otherwise withdraw from programmes due to minor financial challenges.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

To facilitate academic staff development the Faculty had taken a very early opportunity to evolve an instrument for senior academic staff promotions. Having fulfilled the criteria outlined in that Faculty instrument and the provisions for senior staff promotion in the wider University, Dr Paulette Ramsay was elevated to the rank of Professor, while Drs Ingrid McLaren, Dave Gosse and Françoise Cevaer got promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer during the year in review. These were noteworthy examples of senior staff development with far-reaching implications for strengthening existing institutional academic and administrative processes within the Faculty and the wider University.

In pursuit of the idea of lifelong learning junior lecturers in particular were encouraged to update their teaching delivery capabilities through the periodic workshops organized by the Center of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). Within this group, those recruited more recently were strongly advised to benefit from the certificate programme in university teaching offered by the CETL. Those who updated their teaching delivery capabilities through participation in these activities were subsequently duly rewarded during evaluation and promotion exercises.

Aside from the CETL workshops earlier mentioned, the Faculty organized a seminar under the auspices of the Deputy Dean for undergraduate

matters, Professor Silvia Kouwenberg, on 21 October, 2016. Two matters of critical importance to the career wellbeing of academic staff were discussed: publishing in non peer-reviewed journals and their implications for advancement within the academy; and the prescribed format for curriculum vitae preparation for evaluation and promotion purposes in the Mona Campus. Finally, a handful of staff, administrative and academic, benefitted from a short online training programme organized by the UWI “E-Learning Committee” to promote the use of *Blackboard Collaborate* (BBC), a web conferencing tool for enhancing teaching and learning.

With specific reference to administrative staff, the Human Resources Management Division organized workshops to further develop the routine administrative operations required for the effective running and functioning of the Faculty. Incoming Heads of Department at the start of the year under review, for example, had benefitted from training sessions organized by the Human Resources Management Division. These sessions, among other things, were designed to acquaint them with some of the basic administrative procedures and processes, including their prescribed roles, duties and responsibilities within the University.

INTERNAL OPERATIONAL PROCESSES

The internal operational processes, as described in the preceding annual report for last year, were streamlined and strengthened to pursue the strategic goals of the next Strategic Plan: “access,” “agility” and “alignment.” These processes, in concert with other measures, promoted collegiality, strengthened harmonious workplace relations, facilitated the administration of quality assurance processes, and also fostered the student-centered image of the Faculty. The operational processes for quality assurance in undergraduate programmes, just to take one example, were further fine-tuned with the formulation of new “Operational Guidelines” to facilitate the work processes of the Faculty subcommittee on quality assurance (FAQAC). These guidelines included “Templates” for presenting courses and programmes for approval considerations.

Within the Faculty, various Departments also worked to put in place guidelines to facilitate programme development without violating existing Faculty and/or Campus guidelines. A document, "Guidance for a Cohesive Approach to the Development of Courses and Programmes," has been developed in the School of Education. This document, while setting out the methodical process to be followed, also takes account of the immediate, medium and long term plans for curricula development within the School of Education. The current programme approval process, which involves the Department working with the Academic Quality Assurance Committee (AQAC) of the Mona Campus through the Faculty subcommittee (FAQAC), sheds light on the well coordinated reporting system undergirding the internal operational processes in the Faculty.

The system of reporting, which has led to a cohesive operational process across the Faculty, has always drawn strength from an effective network of internal communication. Hence, to promote an even more cost-effective network of internal communication, the Faculty invested in a digital notice board that is now mounted in the Faculty's Front Office. With this in place, the production of notices in hard copies by way of printing and photocopying will be minimized; and the Faculty Office, overtime, will also gradually leverage the financial benefits of engaging this information communication device in its internal operational processes.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT: UNDERGRADUATE MATTERS

Undergraduate quality assurance and control matters were handled largely by the Deputy Dean for undergraduate matters who also coordinated the work of the Faculty quality assurance and control subcommittee (FAQAC). The things listed below were accomplished during the year under review.

1. Six outstanding level three courses, which were needed to complete the suite of courses for the BFA programmes in Animation and Film Production, were vetted and successfully taken through the Campus and the University approval processes. These two programmes are

now deemed complete for implementation at all levels in the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC).

2. The practicum component of an existing ninety credit (90) programme in Education was revised in order to meet a quality control requirement recently put in place by the Jamaican Ministry of Education, the main employer of trained teachers in Jamaica. As a result of this revision, students will from now on be required to undertake an entire semester of teaching practice.
3. Another sixty-six credit (66) programme in Education was reworked and approved for self-financing and multimodal delivery.
4. “Accounting for the Humanities I,” and “Accounting for the Humanities II,” were designed and approved for the Bachelor of Arts programme in Entertainment and Cultural Enterprise Management offered by the Institute of Caribbean Studies.

It may be recalled that, in search of more market-responsive and multidisciplinary programmes capable of increasing student enrolment, the BA in Cultural and Creative Industries programme was approved in June 2016. Having advertised during the year in review, this programme is now set to begin with the first cohort of twenty-one (21) students in September 2017.

THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

The efforts to upgrade the learning environment by renovating the ageing buildings, and also technologically retrofitting the teaching venues for more effective teaching delivery, continued successfully. With respect to the latter, for example, two more classrooms were outfitted with multimedia facilities. Plans are also far advanced, under the auspices of the Campus Principal and the Campus Project Office, to renovate the “New Humanities Building” with a view to making it more user-friendly for both staff and students.

Individual Departments also added to the technological facilities intended to foster learning and enhance student development. The Department of Library and Information Studies retrofitted a seminar room and a

computer laboratory with videoconferencing codecs (life-size and polycom) to facilitate online delivery of courses. To enhance the teaching and research endeavors of the newly established Caribbean Center for Educational Planning (CCEP), as well as the Dudley Grant Early Childhood Resource Center, the School of Education installed videoconferencing facilities in their respective operational venues.

The Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC), to be known from August 2017 as the Caribbean School of Media and Communication, also upgraded aspects of the physical structure. This upgrading activity to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the physical learning environment happened against the background of innovative development in the areas of new academic program offerings and increased student enrollment.

We have over the years established several mechanisms for encouraging student development academically and socially within and outside of the classroom. The “Annual Faculty Awards Ceremony,” for example, is a platform for acknowledging and rewarding students for their academic excellence. This effort got a tremendous boost with the addition of more prizes to the existing pool. In total, seventy-four (74) prizes were given out to students at the 2016/17 Awards Ceremony by the various Departments and the Faculty Office.

TEACHING AND LEARNING: POSTGRADUATE MATTERS

The weekly staff/postgraduate seminars, organized by the various Departments, continued with very beneficial results. The level of participation and presentation by graduate students, especially those pursuing the research degrees of MPhil and PhD, increased impressively. With the benefit of videoconferencing the Department of History and Archaeology held cross-campus weekly seminars involving the staff and postgraduate students of the Cave Hill and St. Augustine campuses.

The Deputy Dean for graduate matters, Dr Anthea Morrison, worked in concert with the Office of Graduate Studies and Research to organize workshops aimed at enriching the learning experience of graduate students

in the Faculty. With a view to addressing questions relating to “Digital Sources” and the cardinal role these might play in any research endeavor, a seminar on “Digital Sources for Graduate Research in the Humanities” was held on June 12, 2017. It was well attended and received.

The throughput rate in the research degree programmes, as shown in the Table below, provides a symptomatic view of the hard work of those students who successfully completed and submitted their theses/dissertations during the 2016/17 academic year.

Research Degrees Completed and Awarded During the Year in Review

Name	Department	Project Title	Degree
Nickesha Dawkins	Lang. Linguistics & Philosophy	Gender as a Sociophonetic Issue in Jamaica Dancehall Lyrics	PhD
Nadine Barnett	SOE	CARICOM'S Mandate for the Enhancement of Spanish at the Primary Level: An Analysis of Policy and Implementation in Jamaica	PhD Pending Corrections)
Amina Blackwood-Meeks	ICS	The Oral Tradition: Displacement, Adjustment, Replacement – Storytelling as a Tool for Wholistic Development	PhD
Trecel Messam-Johnson	Lang. Linguistics & Philosophy	Attrition of a Creole: The Syntactic Effects of the 12 Acquisition of Papiamentu on Jamaican Creole	PhD
Joan Spencer-Ernandez	SOE	Validation of the Grade 3 Caribbean Reading Standards Achievement Test (CRSAT) as a Measure of Reading Achievement	PhD
Nicole Plummer	History & Archaeology	The Jamaican Sugar Planting Interest: An Examination into Agrarian Entrepreneurship and Business Culture, 1655–1807	PhD
Phylis Drummond-Hemmings	SOE	Reliability and Validity of Student Assessment in a Performing Arts Institution”	MPhil
Bertram Gayle	Lang. Linguistics & Philosophy	Selected Features of Konchi Sain Morphology and Syntax	MPhil

The Office of Graduate Studies and Research, impressed by the above throughput rate of the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy, awarded the “Outstanding Performance in the Development of Research Students Award” to the Department on May 4, 2017, at the ceremony called “Evening of Excellence.” Three students from the Faculty were also honored at the “Evening of Excellence: Ms Kadian Walters and Mr Andre Bernard received awards for excellence in research while Ms Sharon Gardner received the “Most Outstanding Thesis Award.”

Finally, also under the auspices of the Deputy Dean for graduate matters, the subcommittee for quality assurance and control vetted and secured approval for the following: a revised Education programme, the MEd in Curriculum and Instruction; the Master of Arts in Literatures in English, which was not offered during the academic year in review because it was way below the minimum of thirty-five (35) credits stipulated for second degree programmes; and eight (8) graduate courses from different Departments. With the Master of Arts in Literatures in English programme reset and approved for implementation in 2017/18, the Faculty as a whole has finally fully complied with the credit requirements for all of its second degree programme offerings.

INNOVATION, RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

Through the efforts of the various Departments, including the Faculty Office, the existing enabling environment for innovation, research and publication was strengthened. The School of Education, in line with current international trends to promote research and access to research findings, had to put online the *Caribbean Journal of Education* and the *Journal of Education and Development in the Caribbean*. While primarily promoting research and access to research findings, this innovative effort will further enhance the image and visibility of the School of Education globally.

During the 2016/17 academic year, as it has indeed been in the recent past, several colleagues secured either the “New Initiative Grant” sponsored by the Office of the Mona Campus Principal, or the Mona Campus

“Research Fellowship,” to undertake various research projects. Funds were also secured externally by individuals and Departments for research initiatives with significant implications for national development. In 2015 the Department of History and Archaeology, with external funding from a financial institution called *Jamaica National Bank*, began the “Jamaica National Parish Histories of Jamaica.” The goal of this project is to provide updated histories of the fourteen (14) parishes in Jamaica. During the year under review, the histories of the parishes of St. Thomas and Westmoreland were updated and made available online for public consumption at this address: <http://www.jnffoundation.com/parishhistoriesofja>.

Throughout the academic year the Faculty, via the various Departments, was kept agog with public lectures, distinguished lectures, memorial lectures, seminars and conferences. The following is a very short list of these activities which attest to the ongoing efforts aimed at sustaining the existing enabling environment for innovation, research and publication.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND PUBLIC LECTURES DURING THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2016/17

- **School of Education:** 3rd International Conference on TVET in the Caribbean; 2nd Mixed Methods International Research Association Regional Conference in the Caribbean
- **Institute of Caribbean Studies:** Global Reggae Conference 2017 Inaugural Stuart Hall Conference
- **Language Linguistics and Philosophy:** “Bible Translation in Colonial and Postcolonial Contexts” (A public lecture by Susanne Muhleisen of the Univ. of Bayreuth, Germany)
- **Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication:** 7th Annual CARIMAC Aggrey Brown Distinguished Lecture (“What these Eyes have Seen: Reflections on Key Issues in Journalism and Public Relations” by Michael Jarrett)
- **History and Archaeology:** Annual Elsa Goveia Memorial Lecture (“Listening in on 17th Century Jamaica” by Laurent Dubois of Duke Univ., United States) Inaugural Professorial Lecture (“History without Historians” by James Robertson)

- **Library and Information Studies** – 2nd Daphne Douglas Distinguished Lecture (“Impacting Development: The Genesis of the Transformation of the Jamaica Library Service” by Karen Barton)The International Association of School Librarianship Regional Conference
- **Literatures in English** – 10th Edward Baugh Distinguished Lecture (“Dramatic Contests and Colonial Contexts on the Indian Stage” by Nandi Bhatia of Western Univ., London-Ontario, Canada)
- **Modern Languages and Literatures** – Inaugural Distinguished Lecture (“Literature and Activism, Literature as Activism: Case Studies from Caribbean Women’s Writing in French” by Elizabeth Wilson)
- **Faculty Office** – 2nd FHE Distinguished Lecture (“Globalization from Within: Confronting ‘Technopoly’, Digital Literacies and our Robotic Futures” by Hopeton Dunn)

One other outcome of the robust research culture in the Faculty was demonstrated through the quality and quantity of peer reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and books published during the year in review by members of the academic staff. Due to space constraint, however, only the books have been listed below.

BOOK PUBLICATIONS IN 2016/17

- Robinson, L., Schulz, J. & **Dunn, H.** (eds.). *Digital Empowerment: Opportunities and Challenges of Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean*, London: Emerald Publishers, 2016
- Hogarth, C. *Dewdrop*, Kingston: Arawak Publications, 2016
- Tomlinson, L. *African Jamaican Aesthetic: Cultural Retention and Transformation Across Borders*, Netherlands: Brill, 2017
- Bewaji, J. *The Rule of Law and Governance in Indigenous Yoruba Society: A Study in African Philosophy of Law*, USA: Lexington Books, 2016
- **Farquharson, J.** & Migge, B. (eds). *Pidgins and Creoles: Critical Concepts in Linguistics* (4 volumes), London: Routledge, 2017
- Michael, T. & **Nangwaya, A.** (eds). *Why not the Poor Rise Up?:*

Organizing the Twenty-First Century Resistance, California-USA: AK Press, 2017 (E-Book)

MONA CAMPUS PRINCIPAL'S "RESEARCH DAYS" AWARDS IN RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN THE FACULTY

- Dr. Saran Stewart – *Best Research Publication (Article Category) Most Outstanding Research Activity*
- Dr. Paulette Stewart – *Best Research Publication (Article Category)*
- Dr. Disraeli Hutton – *Best Research Publication (Article Category)*
- Dr. Therese Ferguson – *Research Project Attracting the Most Funds*
- Professor Paulette Ramsay – *Best Research Publication (Book Category)*
- Professor Stafford Griffith – *Best Research Publication (Book Category)*

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

With a view to promoting the image of the Mona Campus, as well as contributing to social harmony and stability within Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, several outreach activities were undertaken by the Departments. The following is a select list of highly impactful outreach initiatives. The Department of History and Archaeology, in collaboration with the Jamaican Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, completed a project called "Jamaica Time Capsule: A People's History of Jamaica." Professor Mathew Smith, who directed the project with support from members of the Social History Project in the Department, formally presented it to the government of Jamaica in January 2017. A documentary film on the findings of this project has been commissioned by the government for production and public viewing when it inaugurates "Jamaica 55 Celebrations."

With a view to helping grade 9 students develop problem-solving skills the School of Education organized a "Grade 9 Mathematics Solving Competition" which attracted forty-two secondary schools across Jamaica. The Departments of Literatures in English, History and Archaeology, and the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication organized

workshops to assist students preparing for the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE). “Modern Languages and Literatures Day,” an initiative designed to promote the study of modern languages among secondary school students, was organized by the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. It attracted an impressive audience of about 350 students from thirty-five high schools. However, aside from these events, individual lecturers with various professional and scholastic capabilities were invited to assist and/or advise the following public institutions, among many others: Caribbean Examination Council; Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO; Entertainment Advisory Board, Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport; and the National Council on Education in Jamaica.

Under an agreement with the management of the Gleaner Company, producers of the *Sunday Gleaner* newspaper in Jamaica, the Faculty commissioned the publication of seven newspaper articles written by its academic staff members and former students to address and reaffirm the relevance of the humanities-based disciplines within the context of globalization. This effort was coordinated by Professor Hopeton Dunn and Dr Ingrid McLaren, Vice Dean for Marketing and Outreach. Additionally, under the auspices of the latter, the “FHE Open Day and Arts Festival” was held. The aim of this activity, like others earlier mentioned, was to advertise the Faculty and its offerings to attendees in order to increase student enrollment.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

While upholding and nourishing existing international partnerships and collaborations, the Faculty also sought for new relationships. This is because these relationships and the engagements they engender, as the few examples given will show, had proven beneficial to the Faculty in its quest to expand and enrich the various facets of the learning experience. The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures was the beneficiary of a memorandum of understanding between the International Students Office of the Mona Campus and the University of Guantanamo in Cuba. Thus in September, 2016, three lecturers from the latter participated

in the “Spanish Conversation Classes” for students in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. The President of the Valdosta State University in the United States, along with Professor Raynaldo L. Martinez (Jr.) from the same university who had just concluded a year of sabbatical leave as a visiting fellow in the School of Education, paid a courtesy call on the Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Mona Campus, Professor Archibald McDonald, to recommit to an existing memorandum of understanding between the two institutions. That memorandum is aimed at promoting academic programme development as well as facilitating staff and student exchanges between the two institutions. Another existing memorandum of understanding was reviewed and strengthened when the Indian High Commissioner to Jamaica paid a courtesy call on Professor McDonald. Among other benefits to accrue from this renewed memorandum is the appointment of another scholar of Indology and Gandhian Studies to replace Professor Rakish Mishra whose two-year appointment in the Department of Language, Linguistics and Philosophy came to end on July 31, 2017. These collaborations and partnerships, combined with other activities chronicled in this report, have strengthened our mission “To create knowledge, foster innovation and advance education for the progressive transformation of Caribbean peoples.”