



## THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

Dear Colleagues,

As we embrace 2019, I take this opportunity to wish each of you a very happy and successful new year.

I am pleased to let the academy know that I have appointed nine distinguished persons from across the region to serve on a **Commission on Governance** for the regional University. The Commission, which is chaired by former President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, Sir Charles Michael Dennis Byron, includes a multidisciplinary team with expertise in law, people, finance and corporate governance.

The Chancellor is traditionally responsible for establishing this high level committee with overall duties to streamline and review the administration of The UWI. The first Commission was convened in November 1993, and has been conventionally instituted in 10-year cycles.

At the University Council's last Annual Business Meeting held on April 27, 2018, it was agreed that a Commission be established to review our current governance arrangements. The terms of reference for the Commission are: "to examine the performance of The UWI, including its management practices, features of transparency and accountability within the University system, and to make recommendations to the Chancellor."

Earlier today, as I presented instruments of appointment to the commissioners, I grounded the significance of their work in this era of global higher education competitiveness and the commitment of The UWI to continuous improvement in its delivery of service to the Caribbean. I noted that our University has had an illustrious past and that this Commission's work is to ensure that its success and relevance continues into the future.

I'm delighted to share with you the complete list of persons I've selected to serve on **The UWI's Commission on Governance**:

- Former President, Caribbean Court of Justice, Sir Charles Michael Dennis Byron (**Chairman**)
- Attorney-at-Law, Ms. Judith Bowen
- Chairman, Sagcor Group Jamaica, Mr. Richard Byles
- Human Resources Practitioner, Ms. Angela Hamel-Smith
- Former Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, Professor Emeritus E. Nigel Harris
- Director General, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, His Excellency Dr. Didacus Jules
- Attorney-at-law, Sir Elliott Mottley
- Representative of The UWI Intercampus Guild Council and President, Guild of Students, The UWI St. Augustine, Mr. Darrion Narine
- Director, Coffee Traders Ltd. and President, The UWI Alumni Association, Jamaica Chapter, Mrs. Jacqueline Sharp

Already, Chairman of the Commission, Sir Dennis, has articulated an aggressive work-plan for the Commission, which is expected to deliver its final report by the end of September 2019.

I do ask and anticipate your full support as the Commission begins its stakeholder engagement and information gathering exercises. As key members of our academy, your voice and input will be vital to their work. I encourage you to grasp the opportunity to be part of the process.

I thank you and wish you the very best.

**Robert Bermudez**  
**Chancellor**  
**The University of the West Indies**