



Professor Alan Cobley

PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR, BOARD FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

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The Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) organised twenty quality assurance reviews during 2015-2016, and conducted several quality evaluations. At the national level, the QAU was heavily engaged in promoting academic quality in partner tertiary level Institutions across the Eastern Caribbean, and at the regional level, were active participants in the work of the Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE).

In the review year, OBUS undertook a range of student engagement and experience initiatives. Among them were the adjustment to the failing bands in the GPA policy, cross-campus revision of the Caribbean Civilization foundation course, and harmonisation of degree programmes within the Faculty of Science and Technology. The Office also continued its administration of regional scholarships, which give support to some of the region's brightest and best students attending The UWI.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

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Academic Quality

The Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) organised twenty quality assurance reviews during 2015-2016, as follows:

Cave Hill

Clinical Medicine
Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
Literatures in English

Mona

Basic Medical Sciences
Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
Life Sciences
Law
Computing

Open Campus

Educational Leadership and Management

The Office for the Board of Undergraduate Studies

St Augustine

Department of Creative and Festival Arts - Visual Arts/
Musical Arts Components
School of Nursing
Department of Management Studies
Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning
Dance, Theatre Arts and Carnival Studies
Linguistics
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Agricultural Economics and Extension

Institutes, Centres and Units

Cultural Studies (Cave Hill)
Consortium for Social Development and Research

The Review Report was finalised for the Institute for Sustainable Development.

In addition to the full quality assurance reviews, the QAU conducted a number of quality evaluations to assess processes and procedures in place in departments to monitor quality.

Other Initiatives on Quality

The University Task Force on Quality, chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Board for Undergraduate Studies (PVC BUS), grew out of a proposal drafted by the QAU for an integrated quality management system at The UWI. The Task Force held four meetings during the course of the year, and completed a proposed 'Quality Policy' for the University, which included an agreed definition of 'Quality' and a methodology for administering the system. At the end of the year, the final report of the Task Force was in preparation.

A university-wide Centre-Funded Centres and Institutes Quality Assurance Review Follow-Up Committee was established, chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Graduate Studies and Research.

Concerns about the security and appropriate dissemination of quality assurance reports created in the QA process led to the addition of a confidentiality statement on all reports, and the creation of a secure online repository for their storage.

Efforts to improve the QAU's web presence continued. The revised and revamped QAU website can be viewed at <http://www.uwi.edu/qau/qauhome.aspx>



Members of Review Team for EDLM with Dr. Dottin April 2016



Mona's Top Matriculant and Open Scholar 2015-2016.

Student Engagement and Experience

Report on Student Performance

BUS implemented a decision to require campuses to report on student performance to the Board on an annual basis, highlighting trends and detailing efforts to improve student performance. A template for the report was prepared by OBUS to ensure that the data collected and presented in the reports was comparable across the University.

Adjustment to Failing Bands in GPA Policy

In May 2016 the Board agreed that a change to the failing bands in the GPA to allow students more opportunity to recover from failures should be implemented with effect from the new academic year 2016-2017. The approved new bands were: F1 = 40-49% (QP of 1.70); F2 = 30-39% (QP of 1.30); F3 = 0-29% (0 QPs).

Student Retention and Success

The Board agreed that the fundamentally important issue of student retention and success would form a regular agenda item at its meetings so that campuses could report at least annually on the initiatives they were implementing and so that good practices could be shared.

Amendments to Assessment [Examination] Regulations

A number of proposals were presented to BUS for adjustment to the Assessment [Examination] Regulations' during the course of the year, including adjustments in the duties of University Examiners to improve their effectiveness, and a more active role for Second Examiners. By the end of the year the revised draft of the regulations was almost complete.

Cross-Campus Revision of Foundation Course

FOUN 1101 Caribbean Civilization

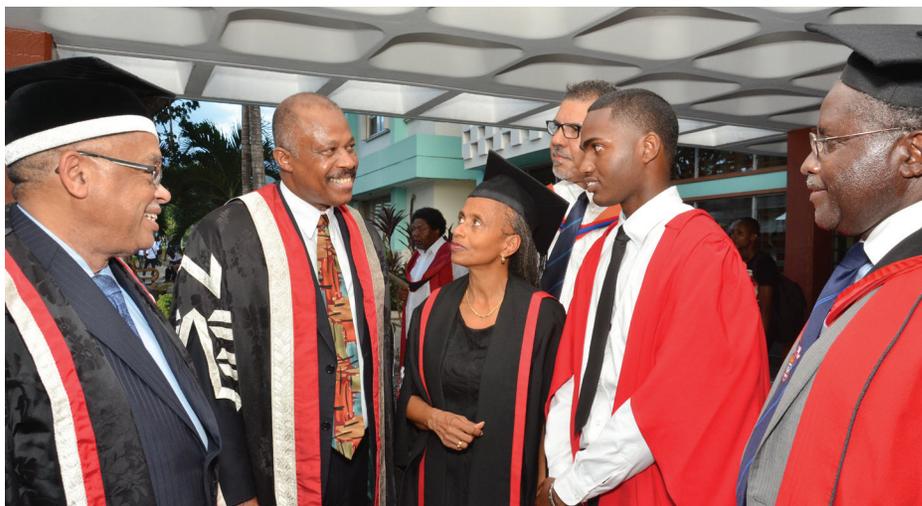
BUS approved the revised course outline for FOUN1101 and associated arrangements for its delivery. The revised course was due to be offered from August 2016.

Joint Degrees and Double degrees

BUS approved the guidelines for the development and approval of inter-institutional undergraduate degrees.

Harmonisation of degree programmes

Excellent progress was made to harmonise common degree programmes in the Faculty of Science and Technology. In addition, the QAU conducted the first cross campus review of the three CETLs located on the residential campuses. These units are important in supporting the work of the Boards for Undergraduate



Mona's Top Matriculant 2015-2016 with Vice-Chancellor, Principal, Campus Registrar, and Deputy Principal.



Mona Open Scholars 2015-2016 with Pro Vice-Chancellor Alan Cobleby.

The Office for the Board of Undergraduate Studies

Studies and Graduate Studies and Research in implementing University-wide policies in the area of Teaching and Learning.

Scholarships

The mission of OBUS to support and enhance student engagement and success is exemplified by its administration of regional scholarships, which give support to some of our brightest and best students from across the region attending any campus of The UWI. In 2015-2016 UGC-funded regional scholarship awards included 149 UWI Open Scholarships, 17 UWI/CXC CSEC Scholarships, and 5 Caribbean Integration Programme Scholarships.

In addition, OBUS administers a growing list of donor-funded regional scholarships. This year, these included 39 scholarships from the American Foundation for The UWI (AFUWI), 35 funded by the UWI Toronto Gala, 26 CB Group/UWI 5K Scholarships, 20 from the UWI Regional Endowment Fund (UWIREF), 8 Wolmer's Alumni

Association Toronto Scholarships, 6 from the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), 2 Patricia Ismond Memorial Awards, 1 Mill Reef Fund Education Grant, 1 Jessica Yap UWI 'Pass It On' Scholarship, and 1 Edgar Whiteley Scholarship. New scholarships added during the year included the Insurance Association of the Caribbean Scholarship and the Minna Israel Family and Friends Scholarship.

The total number of regional scholarship holders administered by OBUS in 2015-2016 was 310, while the total value of the scholarships was in excess of BDS\$5.5 million. It is noteworthy that of the 61 regional scholarship holders included in the graduating class for 2016, 30 achieved First Class Honours or Distinctions.

OUTREACH

National and Regional Development

During the year under review, the PVC BUS served

as a member of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) and was appointed as a Commissioner on the CARICOM Human Resource Development Commission. He participated as a member of a Committee of Experts convened by the Association of Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (UDUAL) in discussions to create an accreditation and evaluation body for Latin America and Caribbean. He also represented The UWI as its representative on the Trans-Sectoral Board of the EULAC Focus Project.

Dr Sandra Gift, Senior Projects Officer in the QAU, served as a member of the Committee to revise the UNESCO Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the national level, members of the QAU were heavily engaged in promoting academic quality in partner Tertiary Level Institutions (TLIs). Quality evaluations were conducted across TLIs in the Eastern Caribbean — St.



Open and CSEC Scholars at St. Augustine



Collaboration with TLIs in the region

Vincent and the Grenadines Community College; Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College, St. Kitts and Nevis (Nursing and Education); T. A. Marryshow Community College, Grenada (Education); Antigua State College (Education). In Jamaica, quality evaluations were conducted at the following colleges: GC Foster; Moneague; St Joseph's; Church; Shortwood; Sam Sharpe; Bethlehem; College of Agriculture and Science Education.

At the regional level, members of the QAU were active participants in the work of the Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE).

Marketing and Communication

OBUS News is a one-page electronic newsletter which keeps the wider University community informed on the matters discussed and the decisions taken at each meeting of BUS. Three editions were published during the year – in October, February and June.

The UWI Quality Circle, the newsletter of the QAU, seeks to support and deepen the culture of quality at The UWI. Volume 17 of *The UWI Quality Circle* entitled 'The UWI Quality Management System and Student Engagement' was co-edited by Dr Sandra Gift and Dr Anna Kasafi Perkins.

The UWI Quality Education Forum, our own refereed Journal on Teaching and Learning, was published fully online for the first time. The theme of the latest issue – No.21 (January 2016) was: 'Learner Autonomy and the University of the Global Future'. A copy of the journal can be downloaded at <http://journals.sta.uwi.edu/qef/index.html> major initiatives to be led by BUS under the broad strategic perspective of 'Teaching, Learning and Student Development', a number of which were completed during the year under review.

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Student Sathara Hendricks at The UWI Toronto Benefit Gala speaking on behalf of scholarship awardees



Mrs Beverly Hunter, Administrative Officer shares lens time with Ms Sathara Hendricks at The UWI Toronto Benefit Gala



Ms Nicketa Watson, AFUWI Scholarship Awardee at the 19th Awards Gala

The Office for the Board of Undergraduate Studies



Quality Assurance Review of the Dance, Theatre Arts and Carnival Studies Components of the Department of Creative and Festival Arts, St Augustine Campus, January 25-29, 2016 - Review Team and Staff of the Department



Quality Assurance Review of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, St Augustine Campus, April 04-08, 2016 – The Review Team, Dr Sandra Gift and Staff of the Department



Quality Assurance Review of the Department of Management Studies, St. Augustine Campus, November 16-20, 2016 - Review Team and Head of the Department. From left: Mr Rikhi Rampersad, Financial Advisory Services Partner, Deloitte and Touche (National Professional); Dr Acolla Cameron, Head, Department of Management Studies; Professor Leon Zurawicki, Professor of Marketing, The University of Massachusetts (Team Leader); Professor Densil Williams, Executive Director, Mona School of Business and Management (MSBM), The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus (Internal Academic)



Quality Assurance Review of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, St. Augustine, March 14-18, 2016 - Review Team. From left: Professor Cedric D'Mello, Professor of Structural Engineering, City University of London, (Team Leader/External Academic); Dr Marva Blankson, Lecturer, Civil Engineering, University of Technology (Regional Academic); Mr. Jerry Medford, Registrar, The Board of Engineering of Trinidad and Tobago (National Professional)



Marilyn Anthony-Hinds (Open Campus), a Guyanese, is pursuing her undergraduate degree in Secondary Mathematics Education. "By awarding me the Pilgrim Scholarship, you have lightened my financial load and I will now be able to focus more on the vital aspect of my studies - learning. For this, I am deeply appreciative as you have provided me with an opportunity to complete my studies at a time when my financial circumstances proved inadequate. Thank you, AFUWI and donors - this award means much more than financial assistance."