



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS BUILDING, MONA, KINGSTON, JAMAICA, WEST INDIES

CHANCELLOR'S COMMISSION ON GOVERNANCE

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Sir Charles Michael Dennis Byron, *Chairman*

To: All Staff and Students
From: Sir Dennis Byron - Chair, Chancellor's Commission on Governance (2018)
Date: 7th February, 2019
Subject: Your voice matters - Chancellor's Commission on Governance (2018)

I am Sir Dennis Byron. I write to introduce myself to you as Chair of your Chancellor's Commission on Governance (2018), and to tell you a little bit about the intended work of the Commission. You would be aware that consequent on the (2018) decision of Council to engage a review of Governance for The University of the West Indies, that a Chancellor's Commission has been recently constituted. This Commission held its inaugural meeting at the St. Augustine Campus on 11th January, 2019. Your Commission is ably supported by commission members with expertise from different sectors across the Caribbean region, and the President of the Guild of Students, St. Augustine Campus is representing all students of the University. Administrative and research support for the work of this Commission are being provided through the Office of the University Registrar, by Mrs. Lois Graham and Mrs. Deborah Souza-Okpofabri.

The members of your Commission are:

- Sir Dennis Byron (St. Lucia) - Chair
- Mr. Darrion Narine (Trinidad and Tobago)
- Sir Elliot Mottley (Barbados)
- Mrs. Jacqueline Sharp (Jamaica)

- Mr. Richard Byles (Jamaica)
- Dr. Didacus Jules (St. Lucia)
- Vice-Chancellor Emeritus, Prof. E. Nigel Harris (St. Lucia)
- Ms. Judith Bowen (Trinidad and Tobago)
- Ms. Angela Hamel-Smith (Trinidad and Tobago)

The terms of reference of your Chancellor's Commission on Governance (2018):

The Commission shall examine the performance of The UWI in relation to its Objects as stated in Clause 2(a) and 2(b) of the 1972 Charter, including its management practices and its features of transparency and accountability within the University system and to make recommendations and report thereon to the Chancellor.

Since the last review of governance (2004), almost 15 years ago, so much has changed in all aspects of Caribbean life, and in our political economy and educational landscape. The vision driving UWI must be supported by governance structures and processes that enable and empower its academic, administrative and student communities. There is no better time than now to undertake a comprehensive review of all aspects of governance to ensure that The University of the West Indies overcomes its current challenges and is well prepared for a future that is even more challenging and unpredictable.

It is important to note that the Commission has begun its work with face to face interviews at the Regional Headquarters engaging Union Leaders, and Executive Management during the period, 22nd-23rd January, 2019. The Commission will continue to engage internal and external stakeholders through face to face interviews, town hall meetings, surveys, and focus group sessions across the entire University system. These engagements are to allow commissioners to get firsthand, your personal feedback on strengths, weaknesses, and dilemmas faced with effecting and preserving mechanisms for good governance within The University of the West Indies.

The Commission welcomes submissions from all stakeholders within and beyond the academic community and will leverage a range of traditional and digital media for inclusion of all voices in this process. Particular emphasis will be given to the perspectives of students/alumni and of Governments and the productive & social sectors.

The University of the West Indies operates in a dynamically, fast paced, changing global environment that comes with its own preponderance of economic challenges. However, the Commission recognises the strength and enduring function of this University with engaging human capital, economic, social, and cultural development within the Caribbean region, and the need for growth and sustainability of these.

It is important to us that no voices are excluded and that the Commission receives the benefit of the widest spectrum of opinion so that its recommendations can properly represent a consensual aspiration for the governance of the University. It is from this information that your Chancellor's Commission will make recommendations to close any gaps that may be revealed in the University's current governance arrangements.

Kindly note that invitations will be sent out during the coming two months for interviews, surveys, town hall meetings, and focus group sessions. You are free to submit unsolicited submissions to the Commission at: chancellors.commission@uwimona.edu.jm. Please look out for your invitation and seize the opportunity to participate in this current review of Governance for The University of the West Indies.

Your voice matters.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis Byron", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Yours sincerely

Sir Dennis Byron - Chair, Chancellor's Commission on Governance (2018)