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UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR, SIR ARTHUR LEWIS INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES

The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) was born of a merger, in 2001, between the Institute of Social and Economic Research, which has roots that date back to the birth of the University itself in 1948, and the Consortium Graduate School of the Social Sciences. Its mission is “to undertake high-quality research and graduate teaching in the areas of social and economic development policy, governance and public policy with special reference to small developing countries” and a major plank of its vision is to become “an internationally renowned institution for development policy analysis”. The activities of the SALISES for the academic year 2016/2017 are in keeping with the mission and vision of the SALISES and with the core objectives of the University’s Strategic Plan 2012-2017.

FINANCIAL

SALISES earned funds over the period from tuition, printing, photocopying, sale of journals (Social & Economic Studies, Journal of Eastern Caribbean Studies and Caribbean Dialogue), royalties, conference fees and consultations.

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

SALISES Mona embarked on staff engagement initiatives which saw the formation of three teams (named after former Mona Directors) compete in activities both academic and physical for bragging rights and recognition by the placement of the name of the winning team on a plaque mounted in the Main Office. This initiative has sought to build staff moral and SALISES pride among members of staff.

The institute also took the timeout to recognise a member of staff on a semester basis who displayed exceptional qualities. Research Fellows who attained teaching scores of 4.5 and above for the academic year were awarded.

Members of staff were allowed to enrol in programmes that sought to enhance their personal development which aligns with their role within the institute. Also, staff members attended conferences and workshops to arm themselves with the knowledge necessary to perform at their utmost potential.

Staff were given a chance to showcase their talent at the Potluck and Talent Exhibition. Members of staff contributed a dish and displayed their talents in the form of dance, song, floral arrangements, art pieces and dub poetry.

INTERNAL OPERATIONAL PROCESS

SALISES vision and mission translates to a commitment by Research Fellows to meet the goals of making a contribution to Caribbean knowledge and policy. The vision of SALISES is “to be an internationally renowned institution for graduate education and research-based solutions in development.” To this end, a draft strategic plan for the period 2017-2022 was prepared by the Research Committee which comprises Research Fellows and Heads of Units. SWOT analyses were prepared to inform the strategic plan which was disseminated at the SALISES staff retreat held on April 26, 2017 at the St. Augustine Campus. All units continued to collect data to inform the preparation of the operational plan in keeping with the core objectives of the University’s Triple A Strategic Plan.

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TEACHING, LEARNING AND STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Staff participated in the teaching programmes of the institute and the broader faculty. MPhil/PhD and MSc candidates across the faculty are supervised by Research Fellows. The 2016/2017 academic year saw an intake of 12 students to the MSc Development Statistics programme, 13 students to the MSc Development Studies programme and 14 students to the MPhil/PhD programmes. MPhil/PhD students continued to make strides through seminar and conference attendance and presentations.

Nine students graduated from the MSc Development Statistics programme, six from the MSc Development Studies programme and four from the MPhil/PhD programme of which one student successfully defended her PhD thesis and was awarded a degree with high commendation.



SALISES Outreach Fund Raiser – tasty treats from the coffee and cake sale

The alumni developed a work plan for the 2017/2018 academic year with proposed initiatives such as mentorship of the incoming cohort and the hosting of an alumni conference/roundtable.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

A number of societal challenge themes were adopted both in keeping with the research interest of Research Fellows and the University's goal of "Revitalising Caribbean Development". These themes all form a part of the research cluster activities.

The 11th annual Caribbean Child Research Conference was held on November 2-4, 2016. The Hon. Floyd Green, Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information was a guest speaker at the Opening Ceremony. This was the first out of Kingston staging of the conference which was held at the Golf View Hotel in Mandeville.

The 18th Annual SALISES Conference was hosted by the St. Augustine Campus, April 26-28, 2017 under the theme "Small Nations, Dislocations, Transformations: Sustainable Development in SIDS. The conference attracted over 100 papers. The Sir Arthur Lewis Distinguished Lecture was presented by Professor James A. Robinson, University Professor, University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy; and Ms. Anya Schnoor, President, Bankers' Association of Trinidad and Tobago, gave the feature address at the Opening Ceremony.

SALISES Mona was commissioned to coordinate a high-level regional Sustainable Development Goals conference. A total of 16 countries participated with nine Ministers of Government in attendance. The conference was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme. Other conference partners were the Planning Institute of Jamaica and The University of the West Indies.

The policy process in Jamaica continues to be impacted by SALISES; a feasibility study was conducted on the implementation of a Global Jamaican Immigration Card for issuance to members of the Jamaican diaspora funded by the International Organisation for Migration. The United Nations Development Programme sought the assistance of SALISES in preparing a project proposal to assess human security in Jamaica.



Art pieces at the Potluck and Talent Exhibition by Kerry-Coy Virtue, Secretary III

SALISES continues to leave an indelible mark in areas pertinent to the Caribbean such as poverty, natural disasters, crime and violence, human resource development, social cohesion and innovation through publication of articles in regional and international journals, book chapters and technical papers. The S&ES journal was put online with the assistance of Mona Informatics in 2017 which now avails a paid access system for accessibility to researchers and students.

OUTREACH

SALISES continues to host Public Forums, Staff Seminar Series and Development Talks which seeks to educate the public on topics of national, regional and international interest as well as to showcase research done by the staff of the institute.

Staff has been instrumental in initiatives which have sought to enhance the skills of professional groups such as public sector workers and teachers through special training courses and seminars. In addition, expert analysis of current social and economic issues has been provided to both print and electronic media.

On March 22, 2017 a forum was coordinated on the "Rejection of the UK Prison Deal" which had presentations from Senator the Hon. Parnell Charles (Jr), Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security, the Hon. Peter Bunting, Opposition Spokesperson on National Security among others.

SALISES followed up on an initiative started in the 2015/2016 academic year, where aid was given to schools in need. For 2016/2017, a visit to the Kintyre Basic School produced a needs assessment report which SALISES seeks to address through a number of fund raising activities. One such activity was a cake sale which generated funds which will be put towards the renovation of the play field.



SALISES Mona Awards Ceremony 2016/17
LR - Professor Mark Figueroa, Dr Jimmy Tindigirukayo, Dr Dacia Leslie, Professor Garth Lipps (Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Social Sciences), Dr Arlene Bailey, Dr Corin Bailey



Scene from the Caribbean Child Research Conference 2016



Floral arrangement at the Potluck and Talent Exhibition by Mark Figueroa, Professorial Fellow