ST. AUGUSTINE ASSOCIATION OF POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS (STAAPS)

CONFERENCE RATIONALE

“Engaging contemporary issues in the Caribbean”
University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus
Thursday January 12, 2017
Teaching and Learning Complex (TLC)
The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine is one of the premier research institutions in the Caribbean and it prides itself of aligning its research priorities in support of the Caribbean’s development priorities. As part of this focus, the University aims to produce graduates who are not only skilled and knowledgeable in their respective disciplines but who are also deeply in tune with contemporary challenges facing the region.

At present, the University of the West Indies, St Augustine campus caters to approximately 6000 postgraduate students across its seven (7) faculties and it offers many programmes across the arts, natural sciences, engineering, social sciences, business and other disciplines.

A critical element of a postgraduate education involves the creation and presentation of original work to one’s peers and supervisors. Therefore, it is crucial for students to develop not only the competence in conducting research but also the ability to present their work in a lucid and accessible manner.

At present, the primary avenues available to postgraduates to present their work is at conferences or research days hosted by the respective faculties. These events allow postgraduates the opportunity to present posters, participate in panels and present papers discussing their work. However, these events are often limited to participants from within the faculty hosting the event and therefore do not facilitate cross-faculty discourse across the university.

Given these circumstances, the St. Augustine Association of Postgraduate Students (STAAPS) intends to host an interdisciplinary conference for all postgraduate students at the University, under the theme, “Engaging contemporary issues in the Caribbean.”
The conference would include presentations from the following sub-themes:

- Food Security
- Crime
- `Education
- Health
- Climate Change
- Energy Security
- Governance
- Management
- Economics
- Gender Issues
- Regional Affairs
- Youth Development and Issues
- Sports
- Arts and Culture