The Research & Innovation Imperative

Meeting to Discuss Campus Research Agenda

Friday 20 November, 2009
Office of the Campus Principal
The Strategic Mission requires UWI to:

- Conduct rigorous basic and applied research that serves to:
  - Explore solutions to priority national and regional problems and challenges
  - Create significant new knowledge
  - Exploit developmental potential and comparative advantages
  - Elucidate important contemporary social issues
  - Situate self and society in a changing world order
  - Provide a sound basis for public policy formulation and decision-making
Alignment of Key Success Factors

Figure 2. Characteristics of a World-Class University (WCU): Alignment of Key Factors

Criteria for Research Clusters

- Multidisciplinary Teams
- Virtual Networks
- Regional & national development agenda
- Forecasting regional and national needs
- Comparative advantage of UWI
- Established recognition of UWI as intellectual leader in this discipline
- Available resources to support research – human, financial, infrastructure, technology
Why Prioritise Research Funding?

- To strengthen research centres with world class capability.
- More research concentration needed, esp. costly scientific disciplines.
- Multi-disciplinary centres bring together many areas of expertise and build relationships between teams in university and industry. Mentor young staff.
- A more sustainable model - new forms of collaboration, within Campus, between UWI Campuses and int’l universities to build capacity rather than compete for scarce funds.
- With public funding for research comes the responsibility to demonstrate the benefits to the taxpayer (and all stakeholders) of such investment. These include the supply of skilled people, improved performance in the public and private sectors, better public policy-making, attracting increased investment, public engagement and broader social benefits.

Adapted from Higher Ambitions – The Future of Universities in a Knowledge Economy. BIS 2009.
Proposed Thematic Areas for Research Clusters

- Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Culture
- Agriculture & Food Security
- Sustainable Development & the Environment
- Health & Wellness
- Infrastructure
- Banking & Finance
Operational Framework

Funding
Gov’t Research Fund
Int’l Funding
Private Sector Funding

Talent
UWI Staff
Int’l Faculty Collaboration
UWI Students
Int’l Students

Coordination by Cluster Leader
Focus on:
• Resource Mobilization
• Research Output
• International Networking
• Identification/grooming of new talent
• Feeder taught programmes
Benefits to UWI St. Augustine Campus

- More targeted national and int’l funding
- Critical mass of projects, people, talent
- Support for Teaching, Learning, Grad. Studies
- Cross-fertilisation of ideas and knowledge
- Focussed participation in int’l networks
- Increased collaboration and innovation
- Greater impact and recognition