



# The Research & Innovation Imperative

## Meeting to Discuss Campus Research Agenda

Friday 20 November, 2009  
Office of the Campus Principal



## Strategic Plan 2007-2012

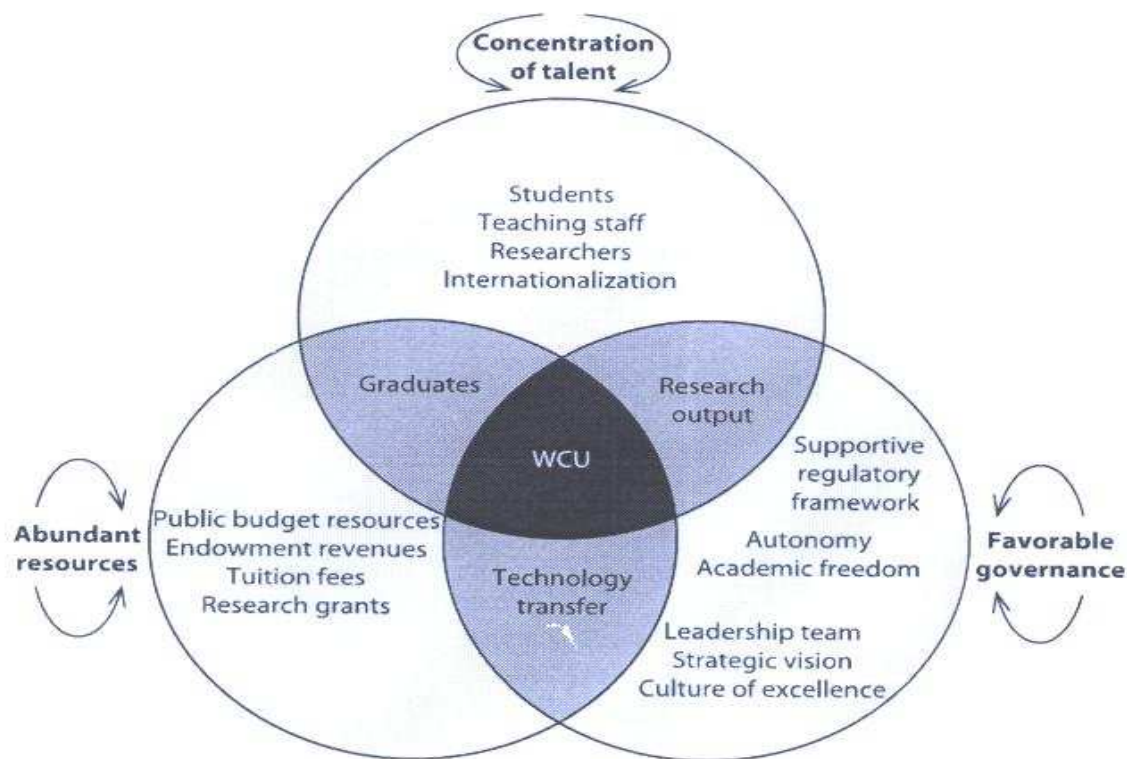
The Strategic Mission requires UWI to:

- 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

8 The Challenge of Establishing World-Class Universities

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



Source: Created by Jamil Sami.



## 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.

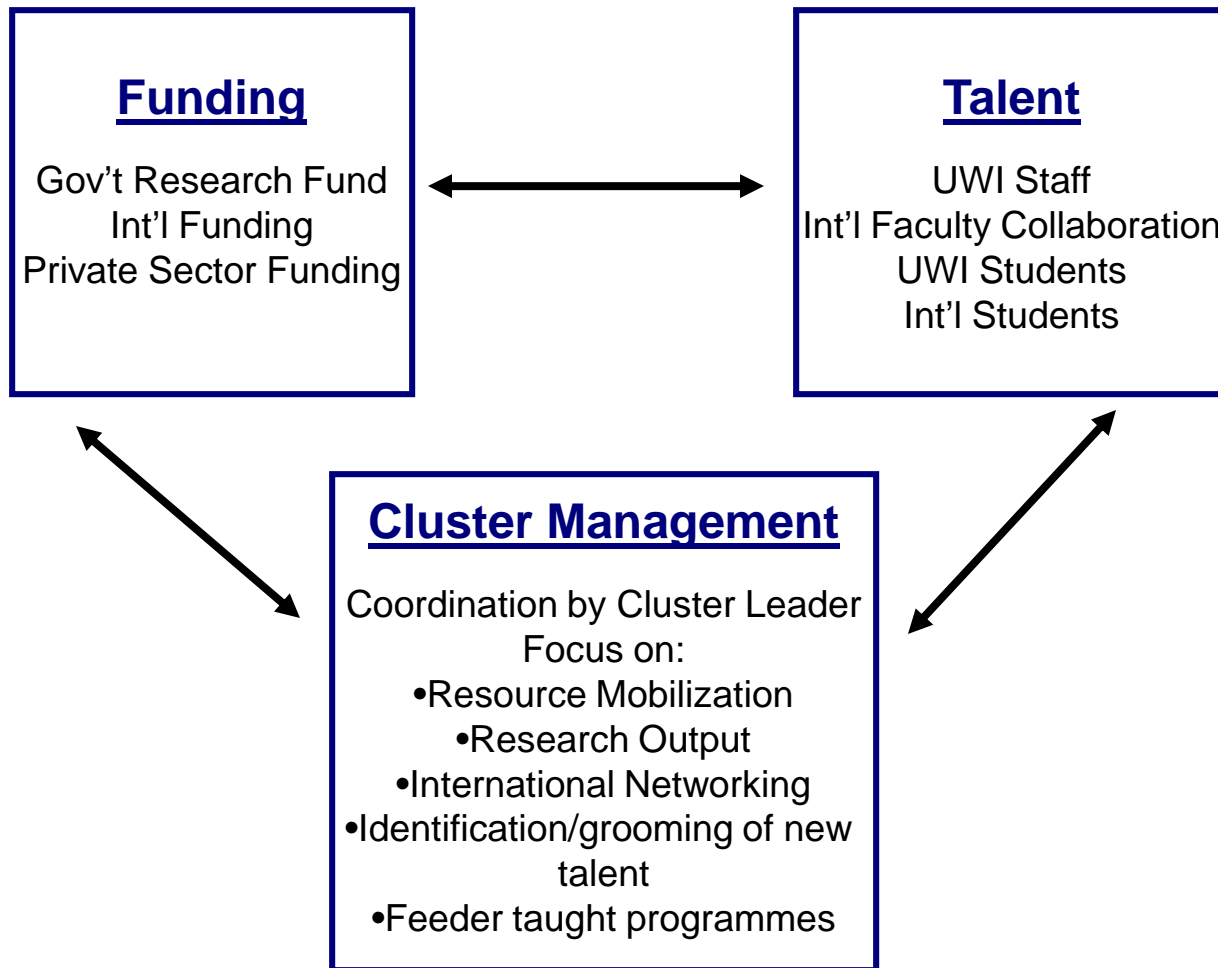
Adapted from Higher Ambitions – The Future of Universities in a Knowledge Economy. BIS 2009.



## **Proposed Thematic Areas for Research Clusters**

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

# Operational Framework





## **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