

**Position Paper**  
**James S DeVere Pitt**

I welcome this opportunity to make an input into the Open Campus.

I am a graduate of 1957

I have served on the UWI council

I witnessed the break up of the Federation

I was invited to become a faculty member to serve in Trinidad and in Barbados

I have served on the Committee for the Extramural Department in Grenada

I was invited to serve as a supervisor for persons doing master's degrees.

I engaged in discussion with PVC Hunte many years ago re UWI serving Grenada and the Eastern Caribbean

Against the background above I would like to make some observations

### **Policy matters**

UWI is not seen by many as effectively serving the non-campus territories. Even campus territories are somewhat disillusioned with the University

The place is seen as a cram school- with the academic ferment of the 50ties gone

There is a level of disconnect between the outreach centres and the main campuses with reports of service at times considered poor.

There is slowness of response to proposals of the territories

There are no research agendas seen as contributing to problems of the region

### **Accreditation and the Open campus**

We might note that the region has a number of Colleges that have developed over the years.

What the open campus of UWI might consist of is a network of affiliated Colleges that grant degrees accepted by UWI or that grant UWI degrees by agreement.

This would keep open campus costs to a minimum.

The Open campus would not need a number of faculty of its own.

The three main campuses could largely accept persons to do masters and doctoral degrees.

The open campus may also offer masters degrees where appropriate supervisory personnel are available.

### **Procurement of academic programmes**

Several of these institutions are already operating at bachelor degree level and others so intend.

They already have curricula developed for their needs.

The problem has been getting some kind of commitment from UWI. to authenticate these programmes. Grenada is a case in point- correspondence goes unanswered. It was even pointed out at the consultation held in Grenada and in meetings with Dr Bevis Peters I 2004 that a few options were available such as

- Moderation system using UWI external examiners
- The second marking system

Note also that there is the CKLN mechanism where courses can be shared and the very strong development of a distance teaching capability developed by the Grenada Research Institute. There can be region wide courses but there is need for courses developed for individual country situations

### **Non UWI sites**

These might be the colleges/institutions referred to above

### **Implementation matrix**

I am not sure what this is but I say let us get on with it. No more procrastination. More than one generation has already lost the services of UWI and our university is not seen in a good light by many. The quickest solution might be to embrace the various colleges as children of UWI, accept their degrees for entry to Master Degree programmes and appoint a small staff to help with curriculum development and moderation of the degrees and examinations the colleges set.

A question asked by many “Why did UWI decide to offer Associate degrees when these were supposed to be the forte of the community colleges?”

If we use the approach above something would be in place and thereafter dialogue at the UWI slow pace of doing things would lead to the ideal situation.

**Time is of the essence**