

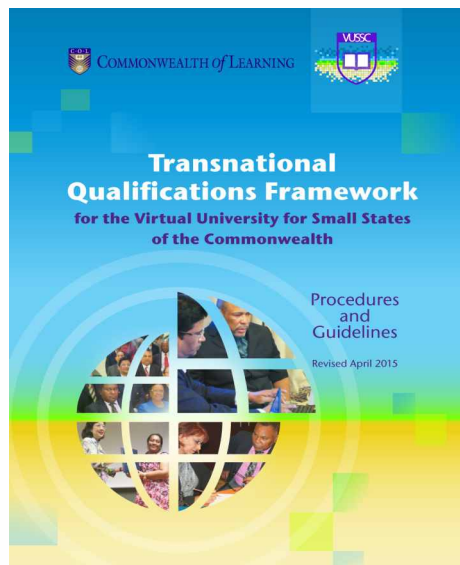


Dr Yvonne Marshall, Executive Director, UCJ (centre) along with members of the TQF's management committee and senior officials in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC) approved the Transnational Qualifications Framework (TQF) at its Management Committee meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from March 2 to 6, 2015.

According to the Commonwealth of Learning, "The TQF will function as a translation device making qualifications more readable, which in turn, will help learners and workers that move between countries or change jobs."

Dr Yvonne Marshall, Executive Director, UCJ was re-elected to the TQF's Management Committee. Senior officials of the Small States of the Commonwealth also announced the approval of the VUSSC course registration process, and an online referencing tool.



ASPAs members discuss the benefits of technology in a changing world

The Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPAs) conference held in Chicago, Illinois, from March 29 to 31, 2015 under the theme "Redefining and Enhancing the Footprint of Accreditation", examined how accreditation and its accreditors have been impacted by advances in technology and the changing landscape.

ASPAs members and other delegates shared

their experiences of how technology and new concepts have transformed processes and operations, and increased the public's awareness about the value and importance of accreditation.

Break-out sessions at the conference focused on topics including: 'Accreditation in a Changing Landscape: Is Technology a Good Fit?'; 'Good Practices in Electronic Document

UCJ delegation attends INQA AHE conference in Chicago, USA

A University Council of Jamaica (UCJ) delegation led by Dr Yvonne Marshall, Executive Director, UCJ attended the International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education's (INQA AHE) Board meeting and annual conference from March 30 to April 3, 2015 in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

The conference, under the theme "Changing Landscape of Higher Education: New Demands on Quality Assurance", discussed topics including: Quality assurance and the issues arising from the increased diversity of higher education institutions; diversity and its components; and the many faces of internationalisation and their impact on quality and quality assurance.

Dr Marshall, who was re-elected to the INQA AHE Board for the period 2015 to 2018, presented a paper on 'Diversity and External Quality Assurance in the Jamaican Context'.

Dr Marshall also served as Moderator for the paper presentation "Optimising Teaching and Research in the Environment of Increased and Diverse Demand for Graduate Education: Perspectives from Universities of Makerere, Ghana and Cambridge".

The UCJ's delegation including Miss Grace Gordon, Director, Accreditation; and Accreditation Officers, Mrs Arlene Lawrence, and Dr Dawn Barrett Adams, participated in several workshops and the plenary sessions.

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Management'; 'Public Outreach in Accreditation'; and a panel discussion, which explored 'Managing a Virtual Office and Staff'.

Mrs Lisa Henlin, Accreditation Officer, at the University Council of Jamaica, represented the organisation at the conference.

10th Annual Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education Week 2015

Theme: The Changing Landscape of Tertiary Education: Challenges for Quality Assurance

Continued from page 1: UCJ delegation attends INQAAHE conference in Chicago, USA

The next INQAAHE forum will take place in Fiji in 2016 and the 2017 conference will be held in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The INQAAHE Board for 2015 to 2018

Jagannath Patil - President

Adviser in charge of National Assessment and Accreditation Council of India (NAAC)

Susanna Karakhanyan - Director

President of the Accreditation Commission of the National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance in Armenia; Quality Assurance Section Manager Abu Dhabi Education Council, the United Arab Emirates

Jawaher al-Mudhahki - Director

Chief Executive, National Authority for Qualifications and Quality Assurance of Education & Training (QQA-Bahrain)

Martí Casadesús Fa - Secretary

Director, AQU Catalunya

Pauline Tang - Director

CEO and Director, Accreditation & Benchmarking, THE-ICE, Australia

Maiki Udum - Director

Development Manager, Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency (EKKA)

Martin Strah - Director

Director of Development and International Relations, National Commission of University Evaluation and Accreditation (CONEAU) Argentina

Dr Yvonne Marshall - Director

Executive Director, University Council of Jamaica (UCJ)

Erika Soboleva - Director

International Affairs Officer, AKKORK (Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance and Career Development), Russia

UCJ workshop focuses on curriculum development and mapping

One hundred and eighteen (118) delegates including senior administrators, and faculty members, attended the "Curriculum Development and the Development of Student Learning Outcomes" workshop for institutions at the Mona Visitors' Lodge and Conference centre on Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

Dr Carol Gentles, Council member, UCJ, welcomed delegates to the workshop.

Consultant and facilitator for the day, Dr Susan Murphy, took delegates through exercises, which focussed on applying lessons learnt about curriculum development to developing and reviewing courses and programmes for their institutions. Delegates were guided in how to write meaningful learning outcomes at



Left to right: Dr Carol Gentles, Board member, UCJ; Dr Yvonne Marshall, Executive Director, UCJ; Dr Susan Murphy, Consultant and Facilitator and Miss Grace Gordon, Director of Accreditation, UCJ.

both course and programme levels.

Delegates commented that the workshop was "excellent"; however, felt that it should have been run over a two-day period so more time could have been spent working through exercises and group activities.

Participants identified the curriculum mapping, and writing learning outcomes exercises as the most interesting and useful.

Dr Susan Murphy also facilitated a workshop for assessors and UCJ officers at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel on Monday, 9 March, 2015. A total of 42 delegates participated in the workshop.



Delegates get down to work at the workshop for institutions.

Workshop shines the spotlight on credential and CV fraud

Human resource practitioners and managers from the private and public sectors attended the much anticipated 'Detecting credential and CV fraud workshop' hosted by the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ) in collaboration with the Jamaica Employers Federation (JEF) from March 11 to 12, 2015 in Kingston and Montego Bay respectively.

The workshop, officially opened by Dr Yvonne Marshall, Executive Director, UCJ and Mr David Wan, President of the JEF, shone the spotlight on fraudulent documentation and qualification certificates.

Ms Majka Drewitz, facilitator, Research and Knowledge Management/Senior Evaluator, Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc.

stressed the point that most of the 300 plus unaccredited universities around are Diploma mills. She noted that the yearly estimated profit for selling fake credentials is approximately US\$200 million.

HR professionals and recruiters were asked to pay special attention to unexplained gaps in employment when recruiting; the reluctance to explain reasons for leaving previous employment, an unusual sequence of educational qualifications and vague timelines.

Workshop participants were able to make use of their fraud detection toolkits as they examined samples of both fake and forged certificates from different regions of the world.

Institutions gather for the UCJ's annual awards' ceremony

Recently registered institutions and those which had programmes accredited or re-accredited during the period 2014/2015, received 'Certificates of Registration' or 'Accreditation' at the UCJ's annual awards' ceremony held at the Knutsford Court Hotel, Kingston on Thursday, March 12, 2015.

Dr Nicholeen DeGrasse-Johnson, Principal, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, chaired the event with both humor and panache, which had the 64 guests in fits of laughter. Greetings were

received from Mrs Maxine Henry-Wilson, Commissioner, Jamaica Tertiary Education Commission (J-TEC).

Guest speaker, Mrs Elaine Foster-Allen, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education; welcomed guests and congratulated the institutions that received certificates.

The Standards for Guidance and Counselling for the Bachelors Degree was launched at the ceremony. The Standards are intended to serve as a guide for the development of Guidance and Counselling programmes, delivered through face-to-face and or distance education

modes of delivery in tertiary education institutions.

Guests were treated to an outstanding musical performance by Mr Nicholas Groskopf, a student at the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts.

The ceremony closed with a response from Dr Ruby Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Management Institute for National Development (MIND).



Mrs Elaine Foster-Allen, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Jamaica, congratulates the institutions during the Awards' Ceremony as Dr Nicholeen DeGrasse-Johnson, Principal, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts and Chair of the event looks on.



Dr Yvonne Marshall, Executive Director, UCJ (left) with representatives from the recently registered institutions and those which had programmes accredited or re-accredited with their certificates.

Students' forum, first for western Jamaica!

The Montego Bay Community College played host to the UCJ's Students' Forum on Friday, March 13, under the theme: "The Changing Landscape of Tertiary Education: Challenges for Quality Assurance."

The event, which attracted over 150 students from eight institutions, discussed "Strategies to Enhance the Student Learning Experience." This included panel discussions covering 'Faculty and Effective Delivery Methods' and 'Resources and Services'.

The first panel comprising students: Ms. Annastacia Irving, Western Hospitality

Institute, and Mrs Ileania Barclay-Whittingham, University of Technology, Western campus delivered presentations on the 'Faculty and Effective Delivery Methods'.

The second panel comprising students: Ms Stashauna Reid, Sam Sharpe Teachers' College; Mr Aubrey Stewart IV, UWI Mona, Western Jamaica Campus; and Ms Khadijah James, Montego Bay Community College, gave presentations on issues in relation to 'Resources and Services'.

The forum, which resulted in a lively question and answer session, was the culmination of

the UCJ's 10th Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education Week.

Mr Howard Isaacs, Principal, Moneague College and Dr Angela Samuels Harris, Principal, Montego Bay Community College, acted as moderators for the discussions.

The following institutions were represented at the students' forum: the Western Hospitality Institute; University of Technology; Sam Sharpe Community College; University of the West Indies Open Campus; Caribbean Wesleyan College; Sigma College of Nursing and Applied Sciences and the United Theological College of the West Indies.

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Students raise their hands in response to a question from the panel during the Students' Forum at the Montego Bay Community College.



From left to right: Dr Yvonne Marshall, Ms Stashauna Reid, Sam Sharpe Teachers' College; Mrs Ileana Barclay-Whittingham, University of Technology; Mr Aubrey Stewart IV, UWI Mona, Western Jamaica Campus; Ms Annastacia Irving, Western Hospitality Institute; Ms Khadijah James, Montego Bay Community College; Dr Angela Samuels Harris, Principal, Montego Bay Community College; and Mr Howard Isaacs, Principal, Moneague College.

Joint Committee for Tertiary Education elects new Executive Members

At the annual general meeting of the Joint Committee for Tertiary Education (JCTE) on March 25, 2015, members elected a new Executive. The Executive members are:

- **Dr Cecil Cornwall, Chairman, JCTE**, and President of the Western Hospitality Institute; behind in photo;
- **Mrs Yvonne Clarke, Vice-Chairman, JCTE**, and Acting Principal of Bethlehem Moravian College; centre in photo;
- **Mr Philmore McCarthy, Treasurer, JCTE**, and Principal of Excelsior Community College; left in photo;
- **Mrs Claudette Fletcher, Secretary, JCTE**, and Principal of Brown's Town Community College; 2nd from left in photo;
- **Rev. Dr Mary Nichols, Member, JCTE**, and President of the College of Agriculture, Science and Education; 3rd from left in photo;
- **Dr Joyce Graham-Royal, Member, JCTE**, and Principal of G.C. Foster College of Physical Education and Sport; 3rd from right in photo;
- **Mrs Darlene Jones, Member, JCTE**, and Executive Director of the Jamaica Institute of Financial Services; 4th from right in photo;



- **Rev. Dr Marjorie Lewis, Member, JCTE**, and President of the United Theological College of the West Indies; right in photo;
- **Mr Winston Adams, Ex-officio Member, JCTE**, and President of the University College of the Caribbean; 2nd from right in photo; and
- **Dr Yvonne Marshall, Ex-officio Member, JCTE**, and Executive Director, the University Council of Jamaica; 4th from left in photo.

Miss Venta Longman has been appointed as the new JCTE Co-ordinator and takes over from Mrs Tricia Douglas, former Human Resource Officer/JCTE Co-ordinator. Miss Longman can be contacted on (876) 929 7299, 908 8012 and 920 1424 or via email: jctesecretariat@ucj.org.jm

CHEA's International Quality Group releases quality principles

The International Quality Group (CIQG) of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), of which the UCJ is a member, has released international quality principles, which address seven key areas.

The principles – quality and higher education; quality and students; quality and society; quality and government; quality and accountability; quality and the role of quality assurance and accreditation bodies, and quality and change – are intended to serve as a framework for international deliberation about quality in higher education, according to a news release issued by CHEA on June 15, 2015.

For further information on the seven key areas and the work of the CIQG, log on to: www.cheainternational.org.

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The University Council of Jamaica is an agency of the Ministry of Education