



GRADUATE STUDIES

Strengthening Graduate Studies

A changing of the guards occurred in the School of Graduate Studies. Professor Yvette Jackson, formerly sub-dean in the Faculty of Pure & Applied Sciences was appointed Campus Coordinator, replacing Professor Trevor Jackson who retired after many years of yeoman service. Various measures were adopted to ensure that Graduate Studies, one of the four priority pillars of the Strategic Plan, is strengthened significantly in the Plan period.



Faculties continue to strengthen collaboration with reputable international universities in the drive towards enhancing graduate studies programmes. To address issues relating to supervision of graduate students, the School invited Dr Gina Wisker of the University of Brighton to conduct a Supervisors' Workshop. This was well received by faculty who attended.

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The Board for Undergraduate Studies, following on its forum for supervisors – “Supervising Quality Theses” – in October 2007, hosted a Quality Forum for graduate students on March 26, 2008, under the theme “Writing Quality Theses”. This was well attended and judging from the feedback, proved very useful to our graduate students.

Work continued on the restructuring of the School of Education (SOE) into a Graduate School of Education that may more effectively participate in the education transformation process in Jamaica. A task force drawn from the Department of Educational Studies and the Institute of Education deliberated on the changed teacher education landscape. While several proposals from the task force are being fine tuned, it was agreed that the post of Director of the SOE would be de-linked from its constituent departments, and the new Director be appointed as a Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, with the mandate to consolidate the restructuring of the SOE into the Graduate School of Education, in keeping with the objectives of the 2007–12 Strategic Plan.

The Library stepped up its support to Graduate Studies, acquiring the recommended monographs, journals and databases and commencing work on redesigning and refurbishing the new postgraduate research facility. The training programmes that the library mounted for postgraduate students helped them to better conduct research.



The project to expand and modernise the Graduate Studies Offices also began, while in the Faculty of Humanities and Education work commenced on expansion of the Graduate Students Lounge. The postgraduate reading room in the Main Library was refurbished and equipped with 20 computers. This is a vast improvement in the quality of facilities for graduate students.

From the Postgraduate Awards Fund, 91 awards, totalling \$11.27M, were made to graduate students during the 2007–08 academic year. Awards were made to assist students with fieldwork and field visits, to attend international conferences and overseas institutions, and to purchase equipment and consumables. Three million dollars was disbursed to departments proportionate to the number of full-time research students enrolled in the departments.

A laptop project for postgraduate students that was implemented during the year was well received. Through this project, research students obtained laptops at a substantially reduced cost.

Taught Masters programmes continued to account for the major share of graduate enrolment (80%) and 62% of graduate students enrolled part-time. Among our research degree students 60% were pursuing MPhil degrees and 30% of PhD students were registered full-time. Graduate student enrolment constitutes 23% of overall student enrolment.

