

# Chairman's STATEMENT



**T**he assertion by the chairman of the prime minister's Economic Growth Council, that research and innovation are the foundation of a country's economic development is encouraging, as it implies a renewed interest in supporting the work of The University of the West Indies as the leading research entity in the country and, indeed, the English-speaking Caribbean.

We acknowledge, too, that the traditional formula, whereby governments' commitment to fund 80% of the economic cost of The University of the West Indies has been, given the sustained economic decline in the region, neither possible nor practicable over the last decade or so. So, I am pleased to be assuming the role as Campus Council Chairman of an institution where Principal McDonald has shown that it is possible to harness Jamaica's and regional and international resources to support the Campus's mission, despite harsh economic circumstances.

I congratulate the principal and staff on the many achievements over the reporting year, not least of which is their reporting of a modest surplus. The UWI rolled out its new five-year 2017-2022 Strategic Plan in the current academic year. I look forward to working with Principal McDonald and his committed faculty and staff as, together, we strive with our sister Campuses towards augmenting the reputation of The UWI as the vanguard higher education institution in the region.

**Earl Jarret, CD**  
Chairman