

OPERATION RESCUE UG: Update

JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE UG SENIOR STAFF ASSOCIATION, UG WORKERS UNION AND THE UG STUDENTS' SOCIETY.

We have written to and are seeking to engage the President, Chancellor and the Parliamentary Parties to resolve the following issues:

- cessation of political interference in academic affairs
- lack of transparency
- lack of accountability
- bias in the discharge of its duties by the Council in two instances:
 1. the decision to terminate the contracts of four university lecturers without a hearing;
 2. the decision to advertise the position of Registrar rather than use a performance based mechanism to evaluate the incumbent as occurred in the instances when the contracts of the Bursar and the Director of Berbice Campus ended.

OTHER CONCERNS

- The extremely poor and deteriorating conditions at the University that negatively impact the quality of education received by students and the refusal of/ prevarication by the state to sign the World Bank negotiated loan to rehabilitate those faculties involved in Science and Technology and enhance the quality of science education;
- The extremely poor salaries and emoluments offered to academic and non-academic staff that makes it difficult to retain and attract quality employees.

We are awaiting responses.

THE NEXT STEP

Failing satisfactory engagements and or resolution of the preceding issues, all categories of staff will be going on strike action in the form of sit in during next week. That means **we will go to classes but not teach ... we will sit at our desks and not work**. We have already given notice to the University of our intended action if we receive no positive response.

No one wants this situation and we hope to resolve some issues immediately and commence negotiations on others.

We are appealing for your support as **tomorrow it could be me or you!**

*Please tune in to the **Voice of the People on Saturday @ 12:00 h on Saturday** to see/hear University students and staff discuss the issues of concern to us, our proposals and our demands.*

The panelists: Dr. Patsy Francis, Dr. Thomas Singh, Mr. Bruce Haynes, Mr. Duane Edwards, Ms. Sarah Bharath.

We are talking with other television stations and once confirmed, we will announce the times and stations on which other interviews will be carried.