

UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA'S TRANSFORMATIONAL TASK FORCE

Preamble

Established out of humble beginnings in 1962, The University of Guyana (UG) has grown to become an institution with two established campuses, seven Faculties, an academic staff in excess of 300 and some 6000 students. Several of its graduates have become leaders of government, business and the professions – Law, Medicine, Engineering and Education - and are highly respected in Guyana, the Caribbean and other parts of the world.

Despite these achievements, it is broadly recognised that UG has been plagued by many challenges over many years. Some of these relate to matters of governance; facilities that are inadequate to meet the needs of a modern university; inadequate infrastructure and out-dated operational systems; inadequate academic staff numbers, poor compensation and too many who do not meet expected qualification requirements; insufficient research productivity; insufficient number of programmes and inadequate numbers of graduates to meet critical needs of the society; political divisiveness; grossly inadequate funding of the entire enterprise and more. There have been several attempts to address these challenges by a succession of administrators, governments, and other stakeholders, but these have met with limited success.

In an effort to re-structure and re-position the University so that it may achieve a level of excellence necessary to propel the growth and development of Guyana, Minister of Education, the Honourable Dr Rupert Roopnaraine has asked the Chancellor of the University of Guyana with the authority of the Council of the University Council to constitute a Task Force comprised of representatives from constituent groups of the University, stakeholders representing government and opposition, the private sector, civil society, the Guyanese diaspora and other regional and international experts to undertake the following:

- 1) Review select studies produced in the last decade that have assessed the status of the University and made recommendations for change.
- 2) Hear and assess presentations on the perceived state of the University by select past and present administrators, academic and non-academic staff, students, alumni, government and opposition, private sector, civil society and other persons and groups deemed necessary by the Task Force to provide a comprehensive overview of the University.
- 3) Analyse and discuss the information received in a structured way so that defined areas of concern such as governance, administration, operational systems, facilities and other infrastructural features, staff and student matters, registration, quality assurance, compensation, curriculum issues, resources and financing, alumni and stakeholder support and other areas deemed important are considered.
- 4) Make recommendations and set priorities to be addressed which will provide a basis for the University community and the Council to prepare a Strategic Plan that will lift the University to greater heights.

- 5) Make recommendations about potential sources of funding that can finance this effort.
- 6) That a small, dedicated Secretariat be established to facilitate the work of the Task Force and to provide administrative and logistical support to its work, and that this Secretariat be established from within existing human resources within the University's Establishment.
- 7) That a structured mechanism be determined to canvass the views and perspectives of past Administrators and Academics who have served the University of Guyana.
- 8) That consultations be held with the Diaspora Community particularly in North America with a view to identifying resources (financial and human) that may be tapped to ensure that the University of Guyana is resourced in a sustainable manner.

The Task Force would be expected to meet over a period of 3 to 4 days and a Report and Recommendations are to be provided within two months of Hearings and Deliberations.

**Office of the Chancellor
University of Guyana
November 16, 2015**