



## UNIVERSITY of GUYANA

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### OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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TO: University Council

FROM: Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Principal and Vice Chancellor 

DATE: April 24, 2017

SUBJECT: The Proposed School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation

### Background

As Guyana's only national tertiary institution, The University of Guyana (UG), is an emblem of pride for our nation. In the 1960's Guyana enjoyed the highest standard of education among Commonwealth Caribbean countries. However, in the face of changing competitive local and global realities, the situation has changed considerably and not all positively. Thus, it is imperative that we reexamine the relevance and delivery of our programs in keeping with national development, industry needs, student-centered learning and faculty development. Recent findings of oil and gas clearly demonstrate the need for UG to invest in competencies and capabilities that are not currently part of our teaching and research inventory. Moreover, there are clear indications from central government and recent business trends that Entrepreneurship and the acquisition of new skills by faculty, staff, and students are vital to the accomplishment of national development goals. This is the context in which we have been pursuing SEBI.

### Frequently Asked Questions

Below are the answers to 10 questions about SEBI:

1. **What is SEBI?**

SEBI is proposed to be value-driven and to rebrand the business management field into a modern, student-centered and competitive entity with a focus of improving delivery to students through action learning whilst meeting the needs of industry. Increasing competition and the need for accredited programs demand that operational processes be revisited. Additionally, improvements in facilities and use of technology are important ingredients to capture diverse, tech-savvy, time-conscious and service-oriented students.

2. **What is the Mission of SEBI?**

Its core mission will be to educate and develop entrepreneurial and innovative leaders and managers with the skills, competencies, predisposition and habits of mind to contribute to the social vitality and sustainable economic advancement of the nation and the global community.

3. **Will SEBI be separate from the University?**

No. It will be part of UG. Short courses and some graduate programmes will require the use of other facilities. However, the location of facilities will not place SEBI outside of UG's institutional framework; the Tain campus and the four IDCE centres show this.

4. **How will SEBI's fees be determined & what undergraduate programs will it cover?**

Like all other UG entities, SEBI will be governed by the rulings of the Council and other governance bodies, such as the Finance and General Purpose Committee. Undergraduate degree programs will reflect the recently approved tuition rates. SEBI will incorporate existing programs in Accounting, Banking & Finance, Management, Marketing, and Tourism Management. New programs will be added in the areas of Entrepreneurship and Supply Chain Management.

5. **Are there specific things about SEBI's programs that will impact other Faculties?**

a. There are several things that are part of the SEBI program that will affect other Faculties. One, SEBI programs will have a strong general education component. This will require significant enrollment in classes in such areas as English, Natural Sciences, and Critical thinking. In addition, there will be a mandatory language requirement.

b. Two, SEBI's programs will facilitate significant cross-discipline collaboration, allowing students in other areas to participate in classes and projects on agro-processing, healthcare management, creative arts management, and environmental management, just to name a few.

6. **How will SEBI impact current students?**

Change always requires some adjustments. Current Third and Fourth Year students will most likely not benefit from the new course requirements. All other students will be offered the opportunity to switch from their current program to the new catalog. However, such changes will only be permitted after the students have consulted with their faculty advisors and it has been determined that there is no materially significant cost to them.

7. **Will programs be eliminated?**

No program will be eliminated. On the contrary, new programs will be added to meet the needs of students and industry. These programs will be degree and diploma programs, as well as short courses to meet market needs and in response to customer demands.

8. **How will accreditation affect current faculty?**

Accreditation has standards. Among the issues to be addressed as part of the accreditation process is faculty qualifications. Current faculty will have to be provided with competency-building opportunities, which have been limited over the years limited by UG's ability to meet this obligation. While capacity is being developed, faculty with terminal degrees will have to be recruited, especially for graduate and short courses.

9. **Will IDCE be absorbed into SEBI?**

No. IDCE has a special role to play within the University and will continue to enjoy its independence. There will be partnership/collaboration opportunities between SEBI and IDCE to run courses developed for specific clients through IDCE facilities.

10. **Will SEBI cost the University?**

SEBI is intended to extend current offerings and offer some new ones, including graduate and short courses. It will be an investment centre for the University.

**Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to consider and approve the following:

1. Approve the report on the establishment of SEBI mindful of the recommendations from the Feasibility Study Team.
2. Authorize the Vice Chancellor to take such administrative actions to implement the various recommendations and take other such actions to successfully actualize SEBI.

The Committee is hereby requested to consider and direct accordingly.