



**WIGUT**  
REG. T. U. No. 113

# WIGUT Newsletter

Jamaica

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## President's Message for New Academic Year 2017-2018

*Professor Paul D. Brown*

Greetings colleagues! I take this opportunity to welcome everyone back after the summer break. Much of this past summer was spent on two aspects of negotiations. First, the formal proceeding of the current round of negotiations has commenced and we are working through the non-monetary items of the claim document. We are mindful that we negotiate for colleagues in Jamaica and the Open Campus in 14 countries and are deeply concerned that all terms of previous agreements have not been completely satisfied in these campus countries. We are hopeful that we will complete all negotiations prior to the end of the year.

Our hearts go out to the people of the Eastern Caribbean, in particular, those in Dominica, the BVI, Turks and Caicos Islands and Barbuda, who continue to be severely affected by the passage of two major hurricanes over the past month. The Executive is preparing to make a contribution on your behalf to the recovery efforts as has been our custom in other similar events.

The second aspect of negotiations surrounds the arbitral proceedings regarding the Pension Supplementation dispute. With the formal proceedings completed in July, the Arbitrator promised to deliver his judgment by September's end. By consent, the Arbitrator has delayed judgment as both parties have been working to reach a consensus on how to reduce the University's liabilities in the Scheme. We anticipate that all matters will be completed within the next two weeks. During this time, the negotiating team will come back to you (the members) to formally update you on the

progress and vote on any proposal.

You may be aware that the University has launched a Faculty of Sport. While the administrative and functional details are still being worked out, we are mindful of the transfer of some staff members of the Mona Campus to this new Faculty (a part of which will be on the Mona Campus - The Mona Academy of Sport, and another aspect in the Vice Chancellery); these members will need to be adequately represented at all levels. We use this medium to offer congratulations to the new Dean, Dr Akshai Mansingh, the Director of the Mona Academy of Sport, Dr Sharmella Roopchand-Martin, and the Head of the Open Campus Academy of Sport, Mr Lincoln Williams, and wish them and their teams every success.

Finally, a word about University financing. The Union has long lamented the precarious financial position of the University. After many rounds of discussion and several proposals that the Union has presented (which have apparently not been incorporated into a master-plan to solve the current recalcitrant situation), we are concerned that the University will become marginalized as it is unable to attract and retain academic staff, in particular, Professors and Senior Lecturers, in several disciplines. In fact, the per-hour offerings to Adjunct Lecturers is almost contemptible, so much so that many persons might opt to mark papers in the secondary school system rather than accept the low sums being offered. Obviously, a lot remains to be achieved. We remain confident that the resources will be found, particularly as we embark on this 70th anniversary of the University. I wish for you every success in this semester.

# The Academic PUBLICATIONS Series...

## Self - Publishing

### The Academic Publications Series

### Part 2 Self - Publishing

Some academics who want to get their information/research out to the public think that publishing their own work - **Self - Publishing** - is a worthwhile option. This route should, however, be approached with caution. It is important to bear in mind that typically, self-published books are not taken into account when professional academics are being reviewed for promotion or tenure. Of course, if you are more interested in getting the information (or your name) out there than getting credit from your institution, self-publishing may get you to your goal more quickly.

Some points to bear in mind (Quotes from *The Guardian*):

- There is no single way to self-publish. There are many good strategies from e-books to self-publishing services.
- Right now, academia is still sceptical. In most areas, don't rely on self-publishing for promotion and career development. Wait until your mainstream credentials are established, then self-publish.
- Success relies on self-promotion; use blogs, Twitter, and face-to-face.
- Always, ALWAYS get feedback on editing.

(Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/blog/2012/jan/09/academic-self-publishing-tips>)

According to Sociologist Fabio Rojas, an Associate Professor at Indiana University,

The reason that academia has value is that we're people who engage in self-criticism. We have peer review. It's not perfect, it doesn't always work, and a lot of garbage gets published anyway. But that's why most of the energy in academia may be on traditionally peer-reviewed materials – because that's what the value added is.

However, Rojas believes that self-publishing "is now a new tool in the tool box". This tool, he claims, is a useful option when the material you wish to publish does not fit well in the traditional mould. "If this is a truly good idea, you have to take the initiative and get it out there" Rojas states.

(c.f. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/07/17/self-publishing-option-academics-periphery>). Thad McIlroy declares "I'm on the editorial board of *Learned Publishing* and we've published papers that demonstrate that impact has far more to do with access than with peer review" (<https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/blog/2012/jan/09/academic-self-publishing-tips>).

So, if impact is your priority and you are able to meet your Institution's publishing requirements otherwise, by all means utilise self-publishing to increase your publication output.

**Contributor:- Mrs Cecille Maye Hemmings**

**Congratulations**

WIGUT would like to **congratulate** those members who recently signed on as contributors to the **Student Bursary Fund**.

WIGUT's  
**Scholarship & Bursary Fund**  
Join today!

## New WIGUT Members

Academic Year 2017/2018

**WIGUT (Jamaica)** would like to welcome the following new members:-

- \* Mrs Olivia Esperance (Office of Students Services & Development);
- \* Miss Heather Munro (School of Education); \* Dr Michelle Brown (School of Dentistry);
- \* Mrs Natoya Wade (Medical Sciences); \* Mr Ryan Rufus (Department of Surgery);
- \* Mrs Karen Seymour-Johnson (Norman Manley Law School); \* Dr Cheryl Bennett (Medical Sciences);
- \* Mrs Amina Maknoon (Norman Manley Law School); \* Dr Natalie Dietrich-Jones (SALISES);
- \* Miss Angela Magnus (Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts);
- \* Miss Deby-Ann Stern (Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts)

## New Feature

coming to the Website

### Know Your Union Representative...

A new feature is coming to the WIGUT WEBSITE - **know your Union Representative**. This feature will put a face to the person (s) who represent your faculty or department. They are your link to the Union. Share your ideas or concerns face to face or online!

Check the Website in mid - November

### Website link

Remember to visit the **new WIGUT (Jamaica) website** for current information

<http://wigut.uwimona.edu.jm/>

## WIGUT Annual Christmas Party



# SAVE the DATE

December 9, 2017

**WIGUT Annual Christmas Party...**

