

**Statement to the Legislative Assembly  
3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting 2012/2013**

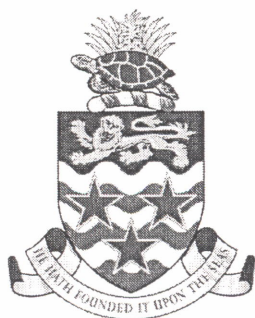
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**By the Honourable Rolston Anglin, JP**

**Minister of Education, Financial Services and Employment**

***UCCI UPDATE***

**15 March 2013**



**MINISTRY OF  
EDUCATION, FINANCIAL SERVICES  
& EMPLOYMENT**  
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

Madam Speaker,

In May 2009 when I took over as Minister for Education there were a number of issues that were identified as contributing to the weakening of UCCI as an educational institution of excellence. These issues included:

- Lax and disorganized campus security;
- Lowered standards for admission onto the degree programs
- Poorly planned and maintained campus and physical plant;
- Disorganised and problematic student registration;
- Weaknesses in the financial systems of internal control;
- Student Service Vacuum
- Gaps in Academic Programmes
- Institutional weaknesses such as inadequate systems for the management of faculty

Since then Madam Speaker, there have been many changes, and I can confidently say that the UCCI of today is far removed from the UCCI that existed when I took office in May 2009. We have seen the institution make gradual and steady progress over a range of different areas during this period. I wish therefore, Madam Speaker, to update members of the progress and achievements that have been made by UCCI over the course of the last four years.

The appointment of President Roy Bodden and a new Board of Governors in 2009/10 and the good work they have subsequently carried out has helped to recover the dignity and integrity of UCCI from the depths that it had plunged to following the escapades and questionable dealings of former President Hassan Syed.

The physical security of the UCCI campus has been greatly enhanced with the introduction of CCTV monitoring. Students, staff and physical property are all better protected as result.

We have ensured essential maintenance and improvements to the physical plant of UCCI, which should result in cost savings in the long term.

We have seen the introduction of improved student registration systems and procedures, (though there is still room for improvement through better use of online registration).

Madam Speaker, there have been significant improvements achieved by Management and Board in relation to financial controls, an area that had previously been of serious concern. Under this new Board, Madam Speaker, the Financial Statements are now up to date and have been audited and I am pleased to say have been unqualified since 2009. I am pleased to advise that the Board and the Ministry have committed to the development of a Five Year Strategic Plan scheduled to begin this fiscal year.

Furthermore, the governance of UCCI has been greatly enhanced through the implementation of the Administrative and Academic Committee which has the responsibility for considering, approving, or submitting for approval by the Board, recommendations on all matters pertaining to the functioning of the College under Section 19 of University College Law (2010 Revision). This has led to a significant improvement in the day-to-day governance of the institution.

In addition, Madam Speaker, a Faculty Management System has been developed which will afford a scientific review of Faculty members' performance through a system which includes self-review, peer review, students' (of classes taught by the faculty member) and department chairs' reviews. These reviews will be assessed by an external party who will make recommendations to the President for discussion and decision making by the Administrative and Academic Committee and for the Board's information. This new regime, Madam Speaker, will be fully functional for the 2013/14 academic year and will inform faculty members' development and contract renewal.

Madam Speaker, let me set out what we have done in respect of addressing institutional weaknesses.

First, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to inform this Honourable House that a new grading system has been developed by UCCI which reflects international standards. This will ensure that the outside world's view of UCCI's GPA system is on par with standards elsewhere. It will also help to build a sense of pride in achievement and to develop a drive for excellence in our students. This new grading system was completed in this fiscal and implementation will come into effect in Fall 2013 semester. Previously a B average was 3.25 versus 3.0 as is the international standard.

Second, we have addressed the gaps in programming with a range of new offerings. Music and the Performing Arts is now a vibrant part of the UCCI curriculum with the introduction of a new Caribbean Dance and Culture course, in Fall 2010 and the launch of the highly acclaimed UCCI Choir, Dance Troupe and Steel Pan.



We have addressed the need to strengthen character development through the introduction of "Men of Standard"/"Women of Character" programmes. In addition we have launched a whole range of new programmes such as the professional MBA which came online in September 2010 and the Associates in Engineering Technology in 2011/12. Two new and exciting programmes are the Associate Degree in Legal Studies and the BSc in Nursing which are currently being advertised and will commence in Fall 2013.

We implemented the Dual Enrolment Programme for Year 12 students which was implemented in September 2011. This programme enables students who have achieved at least 5 level 2 passes, including Mathematics and English, to commence Associate Degree courses, alongside college preparation classes.

We introduced the first Pre-College Programme in Fall 2010 to provide academic pathways into higher education for those not possessing the requisite entry requirements.

In addition, Madam Speaker, an MOU has been signed with Ritz Carlton to provide Hospitality Programme students with quality work experience. A new Language Lab has been launched.

UCCI has partnered with the Agriculture Department to provide Agricultural Workshops, leading to Certificate in Agricultural Studies March 2011. We also saw twenty-four RCIPs officers graduate from a new bespoke programme in October 2010.

These new programmes and initiatives, Madam Speaker, will go some way to developing our human capital; to bridging the programme gaps and meeting our needs for the skills and attitudes required in our growing economy.

Third, we have improved Student Services through, for example, the provision of Personal Counselling for students and opened a new bookstore.

Madam Speaker, I would like to turn my attention to some of the other achievements of UCCI. These include being selected in 2010/11 by the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment to be its Accredited Training Provider in the Cayman Islands, and being selected in 2010/11 by the Association of Caribbean Tertiary Institutions (ACTI) to pilot the Associate Degree in Information Communications Technology.

UCCI's international reputation continues to grow through the hosting of its UCCI Annual International Conference which has been held every year since 2009/10.

Madam Speaker, UCCI's contribution to the promotion of the Sciences must not be forgotten. In February 2012 the new William H Hruvey Observatory, one of the most advanced in the Caribbean was opened. The Observatory includes a sixteen seat classroom on the lower floor and a fully ICT-driven 12.5 inch Newtonian telescope with sophisticated camera and tracking equipment on the second floor.

UCCI went on to hold the first Science Conference in March 2012 at which the Keynote Speaker and primary resource person was Dr Shirin Haque, the first and only female astrophysicist in the Caribbean. This was followed in October 2012 with STEM Carib 2012, a conference which sought to engage educators, students and professionals in a learning environment about the current trends in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The hugely successful conference was held in collaboration with the University of the West Indies, the Caribbean Institute of Astronomy, and the Cayman Islands Astronomical Society.

In closing Madam Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Chief Officer, the President, the Chairman and the Board of UCCI, faculty and staff for four years of significant progress and achievement. As Minister, I take great pride in sharing the successes that have been achieved while acknowledging that much remains to be done.

Madam Speaker, I thank you.