

THE WEST INDIES GROUP OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS
ST. AUGUSTINE

WIGUT UPDATE

We welcome back members and reiterate our commitment to survive in an environment that is becoming more and more bankrupt. Since our last release there have been some developments about which we need to communicate to you:

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF LAST AGREEMENT

- (a) New salaries were paid in May.
- (b) We have received a commitment that our back-pay will be made in September. This, after two postponements, in July and August.
- (c) The Principal has been asked to write to the Ministry of Finance re exemptions on motor vehicle taxes/duties.
- (d) Although the new rates for Study and Travel Grant have not been implemented, members who have travelled this year can account using the new formula (i.e. 100% provided that staff and one member of family have travelled). The rates themselves have been disputed by WIGUT and the matter is still unresolved.
- (e) The committee to administer the Car loans has been agreed upon and WIGUT will soon name its representatives.

2. REGIONAL SALARY SCHEME

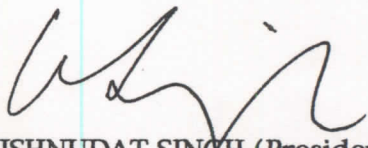
We have to report that WIGUT (Mona) broke ranks and started to negotiate separately with their Campus Grants Committee/UWI Negotiating Sub-Committee. This let reluctant contributing Governments like Trinidad and Tobago off the hook and so, for the time being at least, the proposed regional salary is a non-starter. As you would expect, relations with WIGUT (Mona) has deteriorated and information is hard to come by. We have preliminary details of a Mona agreement and when further details are available, members will be informed.

Your Executive has decided to resubmit the proposals of June 1993 to our Negotiating Sub-Committee and this has been done. We await their response. Our understanding is that WIGUT (Cave Hill) is doing the same thing.

All the WIGUTS have become weaker as a result of the Mona action but there is precedent for this kind of behaviour and we have survived the consequences.

3. WIGUT "TASK FORCE"

To deal with the perception that we are too concerned with Industrial Relations matters, we have set up a small group to handle matters like governance of the University, academic standards, problems with the Semester System, assessment and promotions, staff development, etc. The members are: Dr. H. Farabi (Chem. Eng.), Dr. R. Deosaran (Sociology), Prof. S. Satcunanathan (M. Eng.), Prof. I.D.C. Imbert (Civil Eng.), Dr. S. Carrington (History) [on leave - has to be replaced], Prof. K.O. Laurence (History), Mrs. J. Morris (Education), Dr. G. Sirju-Charran (Plant Science). The Task Force will soon be meeting and requesting submissions and one member has already offered to address the Union on a critical matter.


VISHNUDAT SINGH (President)
for WIGUT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1 September 1994.