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UNIVERSITY students at the St Augustine campus play a game of cards while their lecturers were in a "teach-in" at the Engineering Department yesterday.

Photo: ROBERT TAYLOR

UWI lecturers settle for 7%

By EARL MANMOHAN

UNIVERSITY of the West Indies lecturers returned to their classrooms yesterday following agreement on a new three-year collective agreement.

The more than 400 lecturers, along with senior library and administrative staff, will receive a seven per cent salary increase (0-3-4) for the period 1996 to 1999, an increased book grant and travelling allowance.

In addition, Pro Vice Chancellor Compton Bourne agreed to write Government asking that the \$15,000 interest-free computer loan to public

officers be extended to UWI lecturers.

However, their request for the shifting of a five per cent regional allowance from Year I to Year III was turned down by the university administration. The lecturers and senior staff had staged a "teach-in" on the St Augustine Campus to protest the refusal of the university to make the shift.

Their action had little effect on classes since the time was taken up in tutorials and laboratory sessions.

The lecturers returned to the classrooms in the afternoon following the signing of

the agreement by their representative union, the West Indies Group of University Teachers (WIGUT) led by president Fitz Baptiste.

Baptiste told the lecturers at the "teach-in" that it was because of what Planning and Development Minister Trevor Sudama had said about Government's ability to pay what it can afford, that the decision was taken to accept the package.

Sudama had told the media on Monday night that the Government can only come to a resolution on the basis of what it can afford to pay.