

COBEC WINTER CONFERENCE FEB.7-8, 2012

HOST: San Pedro JUNIOR COLLEGE, SAN IGNACIO BELIZE

VENUE: San Pedro Lion's Den, San Pedro Ambergris Caye, BELIZE

February 7 & 8

PRESENT WERE:

NAME	INSTITUTION	NAME	INSTITUTION	NAME	INSTITUTION
Sharmayne Saunders	UWI(Open Campus BZE)	Jane Bennett	UWI(Open Campus BZE)	Raul Avila	Galen University
Deryck Satchwell	MOEY-TPACES	Lisa Batttaglino	Bridgewater State	Ruth Lopez	UNF
Michael Waldo	NMSU	Carly Womack Wynne	UNG	Henry T. Frierson	UF
Ed Boles	NMSU	Geoff Bradshw	Madison Area Tech. College	Warren A. Hodge	UNF
Dave Ostroth	Bridgewater State	Ellajean Gillett	MOEYS	Emilia Hodge	UF
Nancy Adamson	SUNY-Cortland	Brian Gerber	Valdosta State	Melanie McCallon	Murray State
Miguel Montero	CJC	Vincent Palacio	UB	Bonnie Higginson	Murray State
Ravey Vellos	CJC	Wilma Wright	UB	Steve Cobb	Murray State
Jose' Mai	CJC (ACE)	Abigail McKay	UB	Rhondine Petrof	Toucan Educ. Program
Jamie Cooper	USF	Ewart Robateau	UB	Ivan Nickolov	Valdosta
Maria Zale	USF	William A. Neal	UB	Kirk Armstrong	GCSU
Aline Harrison	Galen University	Steve Spiro	UB (Board)	Martha Bass	University of Mississippi
Michele Miller	Kennesaw	Anthony Diego	Centro Escolar Mexico	Vicky Novelo	SHJC
Yuri Patt	Galen University	Hugo Gonzalez	Centro Escolar Mexico	Priscilla Lopez	UB
Matthew Miller	Study Abroad-Monkey Bay	Christina Brown-Wujick	USF	Jorge Aldana	SHJC
Marie Scott Young	Independence Junior College	Monica Chun	Galen University	David Aguilar	Galen University
Dan Papp	Kennesaw State University	Louis Zabaneh	Galen University	Marilyn McElwain	UIndy
Iyomka Strawn-Valcy	Kennesaw State University	Lydia Loskot	Galen University	Donald Dellow	USF
Gustavo Ellis	San Pedro Junior College	John Kemppainen	UNF	Brenda Armstrong	WJC

Froylan Gilharry	San Pedro Junior College	Fred Carter	WKU	Dwight Call	Georgia College
Neal McCrillis	Columbia State University	Hertha Gentle	UB	Nancy Scheetz	Valdosta
Louis Zabaneh	Galen	Joel Cervantes	Galen	Susan Ralph	Bainbridge
Cynthia Thompson	UB	Joaquin Urbina	University of Belize	Joshua Arana	Galen
Fermin Magana	SHJC	Eve Aird	SHJC	Lea Fernandes	UNF
Bernard Oliver	UF	Eileen Oliver	UF	Eleanor Gillett	WJC
Danny Clairborne	Murray State	Marcia Combs	Murray State	Mario Minichino	USF
Erin Bryan	USF	Leslie Page	USF	Rick Jeffries	USF

1.0 OPENING CEREMONIES February 7, 2013

The Conference was opened with a welcome from Mr. Gustavo Ellis, Dean, San Pedro Junior College. The National Anthem of the USA was and the Belizean National Anthem were sung and Mr. Abel Guerrero, Sr. led the invocation.

Mr. Gustavo Ellis, Dean of San Pedro Junior High and the host school, very briefly welcomed everybody. This was followed by Welcome Remarks from Mr. Algemi Paz, Chairperson San Pedro Junior College Board of Governors. This was followed by a Welcome Address from the Belize District Education Management, Mr. Jahmor Lopez. This was followed by COBEC Co-Chairs welcoming remarks. John Kempainen, University of North Florida, U.S. Co-Chair and Mrs. Jane Bennett, University of the West Indies, Belize Open Campus, Belize Co-Chair individually welcomed all participants particularly first-timers. The keynote address was delivered by Honorable Manuel Heredia, Minister of Tourism and Culture and a San Pedro Junior College Patron. Minister Heredia congratulated Dean Ellis and SPJC. He also offered congratulations to COBEC for providing educational and scholarship opportunities, bilateral projects and professional development for Belize.

After all the welcome remarks, participants introduced themselves. Dean Ellis subsequently made some announcements regarding the afternoon session and lunch. Given that there was a break before lunch, many of the participants decided to visit San Mateo to view the project that was undertaken by the University of Mississippi.

Participants were presented with a series of workshops. Dr. Ellajeon Gillett (MOE) did a presentation on Education Sector Strategy in Belize; Dr. Cynthia Thompson (UB) on the Curriculum Review Initiatives at the University of Belize and Dr. Leandra Cho-Ricketts presentation on study abroad opportunities at UB's Environmental Research Institute on Calabash Caye. The invitation was made to all COBEC partners, especially our U.S. Partners to contact UB if there is interest in collaborating. This can be an excellent opportunity for those U.S. Partners who are looking for a project in which to immerse themselves.

2.0 Key points from presentations

2.1 THE BELIZE EDUCATION SECTOR STRATEGY AND REFORM PROJECTS 2011 - 2016

Salient points from Dr. Ellajeon Gillett's presentation are as follows:

- The social and economic challenges and the need to improve individual and collective lives.

- It was a diagnosis that provided empirical data on the status of the education sector.
- Key findings from the diagnosis
 - Access: slight increase at all levels but not significant
 - Quality: PSE results little change, urban higher than rural

CSEC marginal improvement in Math, more in English, rural urban variation
 School leadership variable, heavy focus on preparing for exams, narrows the curriculum
 Getting through the curriculum rather than focus on learning, Northern Districts has highest number of trained teachers at primary level

 - Governance: Weak collaboration, Diversity of managing authorities and standards, no single accountability, “Reactive” rather than proactive planning, Poor teaching force management, Improvement needed in school leadership selection and skills, Lack of the use of data and analysis for evidence-based planning,
 - Cost of education has risen for all levels
- Challenges
 - Equity: education is unevenly spread across Belize, this continues to drive inequality
 - Repetition: few fail to access primary but high repetition - two in five complete at right age
 - Multi-grade schools, co-location of less viable small schools
 - Transition to secondary is good (90%), repetition and drop out are high
 - Secondary curriculum: relevance, academic and vocational divide
 - Teacher quality needs improving, ability to make the curriculum interesting and relevant
 - No uniform set of standards to drive improvement
 - MOEY is “silloed” and under-resourced
 - Diverse and diffused management, fragmented accountability
 - School leadership
 - Need for improved role of parents and communities
- **Policy objectives**
 - Increase equitable access at all levels of education
 - Improve the quality and relevance of education at all levels
 - Strengthen accountability for student achievement at all levels
- Through a loan from CDB and counterpart funding from the GOB the MOEYS plans to implement several initiatives aimed at strengthening existing systems and filling the gaps where there are areas of need.
- Implementation starts now and continues through June 2016.

2.2 Curriculum Review Project: Assuring Quality , Ensuring Relevance

Salient points from Dr. Cynthia Thompson’s presentation are as follows:

- Need for institutional reflection and review: Rationale-
 - To ensure that UB is accomplishing its Mission and Vision
 - To ensure national and international relevance

- To ensure the highest quality of academic programs
- To determine if programs are addressing priority areas that will satisfy our country's economic need—e.g. applied science, technology, agriculture
- To examine structure, relevance, quality, cost effectiveness of our programs so that we can plan for Belize's future needs
- Expected Outcomes
 - Programs to address national development needs
 - Programs that are challenging and have high expectations of students
 - Graduates who are performing at above expectations
- Progress to Date
 - Preliminary Findings from Statistical Review
 - Internal Consultations
 - Preparation for External Consultations
- Areas for possible Collaboration with COBEC
 - Assistance with student evaluation of instructions
 - Systems for Advising
 - Development of structures to improve student services

2.3 Environmental Research Institute University of Belize: Overview

Salient points from Dr. Leandra Cho-Ricketts' presentation are as follows:

- UB's Environmental Research Institute (ERI) established in 2009
- The Mission of ERI is to continuously build national scientific capacity for the effective management, sustainable use and conservation of Belize's natural resources.
- The vision of ERI is to provide sound science and creates a culture of evidence-based decision-making in the public and private sector in areas relevant to national development.
- **Objectives of the ERI**
 - To provide a mechanism for research at UB that meets the natural resource management needs of Belize;
 - To undertake teaching and training in environmental-related fields to build local research capacity;
 - To provide for the coordination and integration of data to inform and influence formulation of national policies, plans and laws;
 - To engage in national, regional and international collaborations for research, training for management and conservation initiatives;
 - To develop appropriate mechanisms to enable self-sustainability
- Programs
 - Research and Monitoring –Turneffe Atoll Marine Reserve & Central Belize Corridor
 - •Training and Fellowships–National PA Training Program, Internships & volunteers, Thesis projects
 - Communications and Outreach

- Description of Calabash Caye Field Station (CCFS) Science and Education Programs as a centre of excellence for marine science providing research, monitoring and education programs for the sustainable development of Turneffe Atoll

3.0 COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The delegates divided into various committees, to discuss the work of COBEC. The meeting was adjourned following the committee meetings.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2013

COBEC BUSINESS MEETING

PRESENT WERE:

NAME	INSTITUTION	NAME	INSTITUTION	NAME	INSTITUTION
Sharmayne Saunders	UWI(Open Campus BZE)	Jane Bennett	UWI(Open Campus BZE)	Raul Avila	Galen University
Deryck Satchwell	MOEY-TPACES	Lisa Batttaglino	Bridgewater State	Ruth Lopez	UNF
Michael Waldo	NMSU	Carly Womack Wynne	UNG	Henry T. Frierson	UF
Ed Boles	NMSU	Geoff Bradshw	Madison Area Tech. College	Warren A. Hodge	UNF
Dave Ostroth	Bridgewater State	Brenda Armstrong	WJC	Emilia Hodge	UF
Nancy Adamson	SUNY-Cortland	Brian Gerber	Valdosta State	Melanie McCallon	Murray State
Miguel Montero	CJC	Vincent Palacio	UB	Bonnie Higginson	Murray State
Ravey Vellos	CJC	Wilma Wright	UB	Steve Cobb	Murray State
Jose' Mai	CJC (ACE)	Abigail McKay	UB	Rhondine Petrof	Toucan Educ. Program
Jamie Cooper	USF	Ewart Robateau	UB	Ivan Nickolov	Valdosta
Maria Zale	USF	William A. Neal	UB	Kirk Armstrong	GCSU
Aline Harrison	Galen University	Steve Spiro	UB (Board)	Martha Bass	University of Mississippi
Michele Miller	Kennesaw	Anthony Diego	Centro Escolar Mexico	Vicky Novelo	SHJC
Yuri Patt	Galen University	Hugo Gonzalez	Centro Escolar Mexico	Priscilla Lopez	UB

Matthew Miller	Study Abroad-Monkey Bay	Marilyn McElwain	UIndy	Jorge Aldana	SHJC
Marie Scott Young	Independence Junior College	John Kemppainen	UNF	Iyomka Strawn-Valcy	Kennesaw State University
Dan Papp	Kennesaw State University	Gustavo Ellis	San Pedro Junior College	Donald Dellow	USF
Froylan Gilharry	San Pedro Junior College	Fred Carter	WKU	Dwight Call	Georgia College
Neal McCrillis	Columbia State University	Hertha Gentle	UB	Nancy Scheetz	Valdosta
Louis Zabaneh	Galen	Joel Cervantes	Galen	Susan Ralph	Bainbridge
Cynthia Thompson	UB	Joaquin Urbina	University of Belize	Christina Brown-Wujick	USF
Fermin Magana	SHJC	Eve Aird	SHJC	Lea Fernandes	UNF
Bernard Oliver	UF	Eileen Oliver	UF	Eleanor Gillett	WJC
Danny Clairborne	Murray State	Marcia Combs	Murray State	Mario Minichino	USF
Erin Bryan	USF	Leslie Page	USF	Rick Jeffries	USF

1.0 The Meeting was called to order Dr. John Kemppainen. **PRESENTATIONS**

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Co-Chairs of the USA and Belize-John Kemppainen and Jane Bennett. Hosts were thanked for a job well done in organizing the conference.

2.0 MINUTES AND CORRECTION TO THE MINUTES OF February 2013

3.0 TREASURER'S REPORT by Aline Harrison

3.1 The Belize account had a closing balance of \$4396. 15. However, expenses incurred for CAFÉ workshop, College fair and COBEC conference had not been factored in as yet. Those expenses will be presented at summer conference in Valdosta

4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.1 CAFÉ (College Administrators and Faculty Experience) Report by Dr Saunders

The 2013 Café workshop was well attended and participants mentioned how beneficial these workshops were. Participants asked for a continuation of the counseling workshop next year. UWI Open Campus, Belize was thanked for hosting the workshops. Presentations were done by Carly Womack Wynne and Aline Harrison. Carly Womack Wynne presented on Faculty Evaluations and Aline Harrison on Andragogy and the Adult learner. No counselor session was held this year. Mention was made that attention be paid to date received from session evaluations.

4.2 COLLEGE FAIR COMMITTEE (formerly CFACT) Report by Miguel Montero

Report stated that 2013 College fair was a success. Location of the College Fair is important and ITVET seems like an ideal location because of its central location. There was a discussion about institutions that attend College Fair but do not pay fees to COBEC. The suggestion was made that these institutions pay COBEC fees even if they do not attend conference.

The question was raised how success is measured for college fair. The response given as to how success is measure included increased and consistent attendance. Suggestions were also made that a log be kept to monitor attendance. This would be one way to measure the success using number of attendees. Another way suggested is to have a raffle to get attendance statistics.

Suggestion was also made that the venue for College fair be rotated as a way of allowing more students to participate. It was explained that that idea has been discussed several times before. Belize City is seen as a central location for students from different parts of the country to travel to attend. The progressive attendance has been consistent over the years. However, the discussion ensued to moving the location. Suggestion was made that this be referred to College Fair Committee and further discussed at Summer meeting in Valdosta.

A suggestion was made to move the start time to earlier. Suggestion was acceptable and it will not affect institutions arriving the same day as most flights would come in earlier than 3:00 pm.

A vote took place as to whether College Fair registration should be linked to conference attendance. All voted in favor, none were opposed.

4.3 STUDY ABROAD COMMITTEE- presented by Ewart Robateau

Ewart Robateau and Neal McCrillis were selected to be the new Co-Chairs of this committee

Topics discussed:

- Best Practices in Study Abroad to be developed-Draft produced last year will be re-examined.
- Best practices will be revised and tabled for a motion at Summer meeting in Valdosta.
- Best practices should be listed on website.
- Outline range of programs available for Study Abroad.
- Develop strategy to increase the interaction between Belizean and U.S. students
- Design process to have 2 way study abroad
- Writing of proposal to get funding to assist Belizean students to participate in Study abroad
- How is study-abroad financed?
- MOEYS informed on regulations regarding study abroad at educational institutions

5.0 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

5.1 Consideration for membership was presented by Geoff Bradshaw of Madison Area Technical College (MATC). MATC offers vocational, technical, hospitality programs. The institution has a strong focus on sustainable development. MATC has a state department grant that is engaged in building capacity. They have worked with NGO's in Belize, Central America and Jamaica. MATC is looking for a sponsor. UB expressed interest in sponsoring and in collaborating with MATC.

6.0 OTHER BUSINESS

6.1. Susan explained the non-profit status of COBEC. The initial review has been completed. The process continues.

6.2 Two small grants reports were submitted by SHJC & SOWELA and UB & GSC

Grant given to UWI & Bainbridge for Clearinghouse Project with National Library Service. This project is being facilitated through UWI- Open campus

Reports were accepted, moved by Carly Womack and seconded by Fred Carter.

6.3 Payment is still being made for old website. Updating of present website hosted by University of Mississippi was discussed. More discussion on this matter will take place at summer conference.

6.2 Rick Bateman was thanked for assistance with newsletter

6.2 The establishment of an emeritus status for retirees was motioned by Brenda Armstrong and seconded by Fred Carter. John Kemppainen will create draft and send to all.

6.3 Miguel Montero presented award to Jose Mai, past co-chair, for appreciation for service to COBEC. Jane Bennett presented an award to Winsome Arana for her dedication and work to COBEC. This award was received by Brenda Armstrong on behalf of Winsome Arana.

7.0 FUTURE CONFERENCES

Summer 2013- COBEC summer conference is being hosted by Valdosta State University on August 1-3. Suggestions made for presentations include STEM education and Deaf education.

Suggestions for 2014 conference:

Winter conference 2014: EJC

Summer 2014: Possibly Univ. of Indianapolis

Meeting was adjourned at 11: 40 a.m.

Brenda Armstrong voted for the adjournment of the meeting, this was seconded by Susan Ralph.