

## COBEC SUMMER CONFERENCE

JULY 27-30, 2011

GAINSVILLE STATE COLLEGE, GAINSVILLE, GEORGIA

**JULY 27, 2011**

### PRE-CONFERENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS FOR BELIZEAN ATTENDEES.

The Belizean administrators had two workshops:

Workshop no.1: Faculty Assessment. This workshop was facilitated by Drs. Maryellen Cosgrove-Dean, School of Business, Education, Health and Wellness and Carly Womack Wynne, Chair, Department of Education.

Workshop no.2: Utilizing free or low cost Electronic Course; Hosting and Meeting Facilitation Software. This workshop was facilitated by Dr. Kellie Ouzts.

Both workshops were extremely well presented and the Belizean attendees appreciated the effort of GSU in facilitating these workshops. The suggestion was made that the second workshop could be duplicated as part of the CAFÉ' workshop in February 2012 for Belizean faculty members.

### DAY 1, JULY 28, 2011

#### ATTENDANCE:

NAME	INSTITUTION	NAME	INSTITUTION
Ivan Nikolov	Valdosta State University	Susan Catapano	University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Susan Ralph	Bainbridge College	Kim Shackelford	University of Mississippi, Oxford, Ms.
Miguel Montero	Corozal Junior College	Martha Bass	University of Mississippi, Oxford, Ms.
John Anderson	Georgia Perimeter College	Carly Wynne	Gainsville State College
Eve Aird	Sacred Heart Junior College	Aryo Hasnugung	Murray State University
Fred Carter	Western Kentucky University	Mary Schlarb	Suny Cortland
Steven Cook	Kennesaw State University	Lisa Battaglino	Bridgewater State University
Leah Barber	Georgia College	Aline Harrison	Galen University
Jim Anderson	Armstrong Atlantic State University	Winsome Arana	Wesley Junior College
Rick Bateman	Sowela Technical Community College	Adianez Garcia	University of North Florida
Andrea Lewis Miller	Sowela Technical Community College	Ruth Lopez	University of North Florida
Jane Bennett	University of the West Indies, Open Campus, Belize	John Kemppainen	University of North Florida
Kirk Armstrong	Georgia College and State University	Jose Mai	Corozal Junior College
Cynthia Thompson	University of Belize	Breezy Wentz	University of Indianapolis
Deryck S. Satchwell	Ministry of Education and Youth		
Emilia Hodge	University of Florida		

#### 1.0 WELCOME

The meeting begun at 9.00am with welcome from the Co-Chairs John Kemppainen and Jose' Mai. The delegates joined in the singing of the national anthems of Belize and the USA.

#### 1.1 WELCOME MESSAGE FROM DR. AL PANU

The meeting was addressed by Dr. Al Panu, Vice President of Academic Affairs of Gainesville State College. Dr. Panu explained that GSC consists of two campuses with a total of 8,800 students as of last fall. The Institution began in 1966 with 400 students. GSC focuses on access to academic excellence and student success. It provides a variety of programs focusing on learning support for students. Dr. Panu reiterated the commitment of GSC to COBEC and says it reminds students that they are part of a global family.

## **1.2 WELCOME MESSAGE FROM DR. MARYELLEN COSGROVE**

Message from Dr. Maryellen Cosgrove, Dean, School of Business, Education, Health and Wellness: Dr. Cosgrove brought greetings from the students of GSC who have been to Belize on Study Abroad programs. She expressed her good wishes for a successful conference and welcomed the delegates to GSC.

## **2.0 KEYNOTE MESSAGE-HON.PATRICK FABER, MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

The message was delivered by Mr. Derrick Satchwell on behalf of the Minister of Education of Belize who expressed the apology of the Minister for his unavoidable absence.

The main tenets of the message are as follows:

- Initiatives: education is a critical driver for the health of a nation, Belize has invested heavily in education but still a lot of challenges in terms of equity and access.
- New education and training act involving ITVET –knowledge acquisition and skill development.
- New Education Act provides legislative framework for the Teaching Services Commission- ensures students benefit from high performing teachers; ensures rules and regulation governing performance of teachers be administered fairly free from political and religious interference.
- New act outlaws corporal punishment as form of punishment in schools.
- Subsidy for high school students has increased access
- Financing of high schools to increase access and equity
- Quality child friendly school initiative-assists schools to self- evaluate, plan and implement improvement based on the evaluation.
- Emphasis placed on Teacher Education and development. Steps to build high quality teaching service has involved programs to increase the training of teachers in schools, support from the EU has involved the training of teachers in the South of the country at both the primary and secondary levels. Opportunities may arise from these areas for collaboration: need to increase the number of trained teachers, principals and school managers. This needs to be applied at the tertiary level also.
- Our world is globally connected, and our challenges include crime and violence, poverty and climate changes. The Minister went on to quote Hilary Clinton ‘...we are up to the task..We will make the world better than it is today.....’ Meeting these challenges can no longer be seen as Government to Government. COBEC has been leading the charge in this area and this collaboration will continue as it helps us recognize our interdependence.

## **3.0 SELF INTRODUCTION OF DELEGATES:**

The delegates introduced themselves and said a little about what their institution is about and what their role in the institution is.

## **4.0 VIDEO INTERVIEW WITH THE HON. PATRICK FABER ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS-CAMPUS OF BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY**

Salient points: Reform of the education system in Belize; engaging new initiatives to engage young people; happy with the direction in which the Ministry of Education is moving; the pace of movement could be faster; Teacher Education is one of the main focus. In the interview, the Minister mentioned the collaborative efforts between BSU and Belize. He encouraged widening of areas of interest for Bridgewater State University to include Anthropology, Social Sciences, and Environmental Science. The entire interview can be found on UTUBE.

## **5.0 OPPORTUNITIES FOR BELIZEANS IN THE U.S.**

Discussion on how to increase the number of students enrolled in COBEC institutions.

In a mini Report, Lisa Battaglino from Bridgewater State University stated that over 50% of persons interviewed expressed interest in the following: Belizean elementary education internship-American students; Biology Experience-American students.

Many persons felt that they would be able to obtain out of state tuition for Belizean students.

Jane Bennett mentioned that virtual classrooms may be used to utilize expertise in different geographical locations to deliver courses to students. This would minimize the need to physically move students from one country to another. Eve Aird expressed that this could be applied to meet the needs of junior college faculty in earning advanced degrees.

A list of human resources needs in terms of graduate studies is needed. The human resource needs analysis for tertiary level education Belize will be done soon by the Tertiary Unit of the Ministry of Education.

Faculty exchange between faculties of both countries: it was pointed out that this was being done by Muffles Junior College and others may wish to look at this model to see how it could be applied to their institution. It was stated that a Document was worked on some time ago on the guidelines governing the exchange of faculty. Efforts will be made to locate this document. Coil-collaborative on line I learning involve two lecturers collaborating to deliver a course to students all over the world –look up coil network at Sunni university. Early childhood education is in need of trained teachers. In the Corozal District, about 90% of early childhood education teachers are untrained. Higher Education needs in Belize would give some definitive directions to the U.S. partners on how to collaborate in the education process in Belize. John Kemppaninen offered the help of COBEC partners/students in collecting the data and putting the information together.

## **6.0 PRESENTATION-TEACHER EDUCATION IN BELIZE-GSC'S EXPERIENCE- KRISTY FARMER AND JOE GOODMAN**

Joe Goodman: said that he realized that the people were happy and did not need his sympathy. He described how they helped in building a road with the community in San Mateo. Unity Presbyterian school in Belize City- worked with a paediatrician who volunteered to work in Belize. They supplied the kitchen with utensils etc. put in line for water to provide the school with running water. 'Humbling and rewarding' is how Joe described the experience. St. Agnes school, La Democracia, Belize: Joe did professional development with two teachers, teaching them how to assess reading and providing them with feedback and answers to their questions. ABC Preschool, San Pedro, Belize: students worked at this school, which is a private school. Teachers were very receptive to the information on the teaching of reading and literacy. It was suggested that Belize Junior College students should be involved in Service Learning also, it was also noted that many Belizeans do not know this side of San Pedro and have only seen the nicer areas by the sea. Concern was expressed about the impact of the rubbish being used to dump in the swampy areas in order to build roads. This is being done by the persons in authority of the village. It was pointed out that projects like these need to be publicized so that the wider community of Belize knows what is going on through COBEC. Research on how a feeding program affects the attendance of students at school- this is being compared with Unity school which does not have a feeding program and the San Mateo school which has a feeding program. GSU is trying to quantify the dispositional shifts between the students who have been to Belize/ other country on Study Abroad Service Projects and those who have not been.

## **7.0 PRESENTATION: FRIENDS OF BELIZE**

This presentation was done by Mr. Trygve Olson. It is a not for profit entity, and there is no affiliation with either the U.S. or U.K. Governments of the Government of Belize. Mission: to promote deeper ties between the United States and Belize- political, commercial and culture. The organization seeks to create more attention to Belize, so that what is going on there is better known. Website: [www.friendsofbelize.com](http://www.friendsofbelize.com)

**Mission objectives:**

- Educate on the importance of direct foreign investment in a globalized world.
- Increase foreign direct investment in Belize
- Explore and promote policy resources that expand economic capacity
- Coordination of economic and social policies for long term impact.

**Projects being worked on:**

- Organize presentations and programs on FDI and globalization together with Belizeans educational institutions
- Partner on projects to build long term understanding of the impact of a globalized world
- Create learning opportunities

**Events 2011**

Hosted BCCI and BBB trip to Washington; met with Prime Minister Dean Barrow

**Areas of partnership**

- Opportunities for FOB (Friends of Belize) experts to come to speak at your institutions
- Joint events to discuss issues of foreign investment, globalization and sustainable pro-business policies
- Partnership to develop opportunities for future Belizean leaders to think about these important issues

Mr. Olson can be reached at the following email address: Trygve Olson [tolson@friendsofbelize.com](mailto:tolson@friendsofbelize.com)

**8.0 COBEC COMMITTEE MEETINGS-CFACT, CAFÉ’ AND STUDY ABROAD, CFACT**

The delegates met in the various committees.

**COBEC -BUSINESS MEETING SATURDAY JULY 30**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Ivan Nilolov	Rick Bateman	Susan Catapano	Ruth Lopez
Susan Ralph	Andrea Lewis Miller	Kim Shackleford	John Kemppainen
Miguel Montero	Jane Bennett	Martha Bass	Jose’ Mai
John Anderson	Cynthia Thompson	Aline Harrison	Breezy Wentz
Eve Aird	Deryck Satchwell	Winsome Arana	Carly Wynne
Fred Carter	Emilia Hodge	Adianez Garcia	Steven Cook
Aryo Hasnugung			

**9.0. CALL TO ORDER**

The business meeting was called to order at 9.00am by the Co-Chairs John Kemppainen and Jose’ Mai.

The agenda was accepted by Fred Carter and seconded by Ivan Nikolov

**9.1 501 (C) 3 STATUS DISCUSSION**

Susan explained the problems being experienced with the U.S. Account in the bank. 501 (C) 3 status ( a tax exempt status). Discussion ensued. It is hoped that by the next conference meeting the status will be restored.

## **9.2 WEBSITE DESIGN AND UPKEEP**

Jose' Mai reported on the progress-last updated on Nov.4, 2004, it was created that same year. There is a registrant for the domain which will expire in 2014. A name is not listed on the domain but Valdosta State University is listed. Information on the domain is needed eg a domain user password etc to update this website. Upkeep is approx 300-400BZ per month, establishing it would be approx 1000.00 BZ. An Organization in Belize is willing to offer a free website for COBEC with a domain name ending in cobec.bz, cobec.edu.bz. etc free of cost. The current COBEC website is not updated at the moment.

Kim Shackelford suggested that at the University of Mississippi, an IT person could be co-opted to work on the COBEC website. She will go back and explore this along with Jose' and John who will issue whatever is necessary to establish and update the website.

## **10.0 REPORTS BY OFFICERS**

### **10.1 SECRETARY'S REPORT- ACCEPTANCE OF FEBRUARY 2011 MINUTES**

The minutes were approved by Cynthia Thompson and seconded by Ivan Nikolov.

Corrections-Deputy Chief of Missions is Mr. Giffly, the U.S. representative to the February COBEC meeting.

### **10.2 US TREASURER'S REPORT**

This was presented by Susan Ralph. The U.S. account showed total expenditure of \$4,205.21; Income of \$4,900.81 and a balance of \$20,046.83 USD. The Report was accepted by Ivan Nikolov and seconded by Fred Carter. All in favour, none opposed.

### **10.3 BELIZE TREASURER'S REPORT**

This was presented by Winsome Arana. The Belize account showed total expenditure of \$1236.25, Income of \$1,200.00 and a balance of \$2,118.03 BZD. The Report was accepted by Eve Aird and seconded by Miguel Montero. All in favour, none opposed.

## **11.0 OTHER REPORTS**

### **11.1 MINI GRANT-BAINBRIDGE UNIVERSITY**

?????? Can someone please fill me in on this one?

### **11.2 CAFÉ COMMITTEE REPORT**

This report was presented by Eve Aird. The Café workshop is to be held on the same day as the College Fair.

Carly Wynnne asked for an official invitation for Kellie Ouzt to attend the COBEC Conference in February 2012 in order to present on web 2.0. The Belize counterpart would be Mr. Louis Underwood from WJC.

2<sup>nd</sup> workshop-Leadership Seminar for Department Heads: Rick Bateman will co-present. It was suggested that Neulin Villanueva could also co-present.

3<sup>rd</sup> session: Counseling-targeting at-risk students- Kim Shackelford has offered to co-present and Amelia Williams will co-present. High school counselors will be invited to attend also.

All sessions would run parallel to each other and each will have the time period 9.00am to 3.00pm to run.

### **11.3 STUDY ABROAD COMMITTEE REPORT**

This Report was presented by Susan Ralph. She stated that there was the need for information for students eg. Bus routes, location of Medical services. Long term study abroad student need service package and places in which to do service learning. Survey to find service learning opportunities in each district, inform others when US teams will be in Belize, district by district information package is needed for US students.

#### **11.4 CFACT COMMITTEE**

Martha Bass presented this report. The College Fair will take place on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at ITVET.

Report presented by Martha bass

#### **12.0 MEMBERSHIP**

UNCW, SOWELA and the University of Florida have expressed interest in becoming members of COBEC.

The delegate from UNCW, Susan Catapano, had to leave for her flight, but other delegates spoke about her involvement in Belize in Study Abroad Programs.

Teresa Lewis spoke about the history of SOWELA. Rick Bateman spoke also. SOWELA was described as the fastest growing College in Louisiana, It leads the State in its graduation rate, it will be a good partner for Belize. SOWELA offers programs that the Belizean students could use- 1 plus 1 programs and technical programs among others. Rick Bateman feels that SOWELA has a lot to offer in terms of its contribution to COBEC. The major programs are process technology, instrumentation, aviation maintenance technology-associate degree in applied science, graphic arts, etc.

Emilia Hodge-University of Florida: UF is one of the oldest universities in Florida, enrollment about 50,000. There are 16 colleges and over 100 doctoral programs. Emilia stated that the University of Florida can offer a wide variety of programs from all levels to Belizean students. The University will be open to consider various partner agreements with both Belizean institutions and American institutions. This request is for re-instatement as this institution was originally a member of COBEC.

A decision about these requests will be made at the February meeting in Belize.

SUNY Cortland is now up to date, so they are now back in COBEC.

#### **13.0 NEW COBEC LOGO**

The new logo is almost completed but a problem is being experienced in getting the tree imposed in the center of the logo.

#### **14.0 FUTURE CONFERENCES**

Winter/February 2012 conference will be hosted by Sacred Heart Junior College, San Ignacio, Belize from February 2-3, 2012. On Feb.1, there will be the CFACT and CAFÉ' Workshops. It was suggested that delegates could go to San Pedro on Feb .4 to see what San Mateo is all about and possibly join in the work there for a day.

The US Ambassador will be invited to discuss the Fulbright scholarship program.

Summer 2012: The University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi will host the Summer COBEC Conference.

Summer 2013: Valdosta State University to host summer conference

Independence junior college will be asked to host the February Conference in 2013.

#### **1650 Awards and Presentations**

The Awards Committee, which is made up of one member, Mr. Adrian Leiva, presented Awards to members who have served COBEC for a long time. An award was presented to Eve Aird for her contribution to COBEC as Co-chair. The other awards were for Michael Brennan, former co-chair and Jane Zahner who has retired. The latter two awardees were absent and so the awards will be sent to them.

Gratitude was extended to Carly Womack Wynne for hosting all the delegates so graciously at GSC.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ivan Nikolov and seconded by Eve Aird.

Respectfully submitted by

*Winsome Arana*