Abel Idowu Olayinka

Stewardship as Dean, Postgraduate School, 2002 – 2006

- There was a 253% increase in the total revenue generated by the School from N97.6 million in 2001/02 session, to N344.5 million during the 2004/05 session. Academic units benefitted immensely from this improved revenue profile from which they were able to upgrade their teaching and research facilities.
- We introduced payment of *bench fees* for science-based disciplines. This fee was remitted 100% to the students' academic departments to complement other sources of funds to support laboratory and ICT equipment.
- We established "The University of Ibadan Postgraduate School Endowment Fund". A principal sum of N25 Million was invested in shares/stocks of 'blue-chip' companies quoted on the Nigerian Stock Exchange. The stocks are now worth about N62.7 Million. The dividends are appropriated for research capacity building of postgraduate students and staff.
- To encourage outstanding research students and as a capacity building initiative:
 - We created "The UIPG School Scholarship Scheme" in 2002/03.
 - o "The UI PG School Teaching and Research Assistantship Scheme" was set up in 2003/04.

A total of 57 PhD students benefited from 2004 to 2006; many of these emerging scholars and early career researchers have already joined the University of Ibadan as Lecturers, thus partly solving our problem of ageing staff. Moreover, many of them are now on the academic staff of sister institutions, thus enhancing the leadership position of the University of Ibadan for advanced training.

- We facilitated a Workshop on *Globalisation of Scholarly Journals*;
- We provided *Funding Support for Publication of Learned Journals* in the College of Medicine, and all the Faculties and Institutes;
- We established the *University of Ibadan Scholarly Publication Global Access (UISPGA)*Committee to facilitate the local indexing of academic titles published in the University
- We encouraged inter- and trans-disciplinary research and maintained an active academic environment in the University and brought the town and gown closer through our *Interdisciplinary Research Discourse Series*. Twenty two such lectures were held;

- We *published about 36 scholarly titles* some of which are still distributed to new postgraduate students in the University; they are also available on sale at the University Bookshops.
- We produced a *Code of Practice and Ethics for Research Degree Programmes* in the University of Ibadan. UI was arguably the first university in Nigeria to have this home grown document.
- We designed and published the *University of Ibadan Manual of Style* (UIMS). This is a uniquely UI referencing style.
- We facilitated the establishment of *new postgraduate courses* in 22 Departments.
- A review of the Regulations Governing Higher Degrees was undertaken, 2002 2004.
- A comprehensive *Curriculum Review of all Postgraduate Programmes in the University* was embarked upon and was about 80% completed as at 31 July 2006;
- We put in place quality assurance measures in our Postgraduate training and research;
- We strengthened the *Local Conference Awards for Postgraduate Teachers*. A total of 336 awards were made during my tenure.
- We established *the Overseas Conference Grants for Postgraduate Teachers*. Seventy eight academics received the awards from 2005 to 2006. This initiative was subsequently taken over by the central University Administration, with equity contribution from the Postgraduate School under my successor as Dean.
- We cleared a 5-year backlog of Degree Certificates and by 2005 our postgraduate students were able to collect their degree certificates during the convocation or soon after. The School is now up-to-date.
- We generated some 37,400 Transcripts for all higher degrees and postgraduate diplomas from 1975/76 till 2006.
- We ensured provision of *ICT Infrastructural Support* to the Faculties which did not benefit from the 1st Phase. (Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences; Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry; Faculty of Science; Faculty of Law);
- To improve ICT competencies of Postgraduate students in the University:
 - We partnered with Departments/Institutes/Centres a *Counterpart Funding Scheme for the Purchase of Computers* for all the academic units.
- With active support of the Bursary and Internal Audit Units of the University, we streamlined the processing of *External Examiners' Honoraria and Transport Claims*, with a much reduced waiting time before the claims were ready.
- The old block housing the Sub-Dean, Records Section, Deputy Registrar/Secretary, and Examinations Office was re-roofed.
- The former 'Computer Room' was modernized, strengthened and re-christened the 'Data Processing Unit'.
- An Ad-Hoc Committee was established on the need to reposition the Accounts Section, which was much later upgraded into the status of a Finance Office.
- We organised many Workshops, Seminars and Symposia on aspects of research methodology and research management to which postgraduate students, academic staff from all the departments/centres/institutes were invited as participants. These included the following:

- o Re-engineering & Repositioning the PG School (Oct 2 and 3, 2002)
- Workshop on Writing Grant Proposals for Academic Staff (July 17 & 18, 2003).
- Workshop on Writing PhD Thesis for Research Students (February 23 & 24, 2004).
- o The First Workshop on Methodology of Basic & Applied Research for Academic Staff and Research Students (November 1 to 5, 2004).
- Workshop on Contemporary Issues in Research Supervision (March 15 & 16 2005).
- Workshop on Globalisation of Scholarly Journals (27 and 28 September 2005).
- Workshop on Scholarly Writing and Publications (23 and 24 November 2005).
- O Symposium on Tracking the Impact of Research: How and Why? (13 January 2006).
- The Second Workshop on Methodology of Basic & Applied Research for Academic Staff and Research Students (May 1 to 5, 2006).