



## My Thoughts and Questions

1. There has certainly been a major increase in total campus expenditure in the last decade. Between 1999 and 2009 the total expenditure at UWI more than doubled, with much of the increase coming since 2005.
2. When one looks at the revenue composition, the available evidence seems to suggest that contributions by the government of Barbados has been by a long way the major source of funding for this expansion. In 1999 government provided 55% of the revenues, by 2009, it has grown to 65%. A significant portion of the funds from fees and tuition also comes from the government of Barbados.
3. The evidence seems to suggest that the government contribution exclusive of tuition, fees and any special funds provided by the government has moved from \$51 million in 1999 to \$127.5 million in 2009. In my humble opinion, no matter how important education is and, recession or no recession, such increases in expenditures on the part of the government should warrant careful investigation and monitoring by a responsible government.
4. I am struggling to find the evidence of major philanthropic contributions from the private sector. The special funds figure has remained relatively constant over the 1999 to 2009 period and does not appear to represent a new source of revenues. I am reliably informed that special funds do not represent private sector philanthropic contributions but rather things like research grants, consultancies and other projects, some of which are government funded. In a number of years the university appears to have run quite sizeable surpluses. What has happened to those surpluses, have those surplus contributions from the government been the source of campus expansion? In addition to the surplus contributions, we also seem to have had a major build up of debt from the private sector as table 3 suggests.

I think a couple of questions arise:

1. How much of our fiscal deficit problems are related to the apparently massive expansion of one of our most expensive social programs since 2005? As crucial as education is to our development can we afford this?
2. The principal of UWI Cave Hill has claimed that there is no subvention to UWI, rather UWI provides a service and then submits an invoice for services rendered. How is the annual financing to UWI determined? Is it reasonable for UWI Cave Hill to rack up such increases in expenditures, send a bill for the expenditure and then complain in public about the amounts owed to it? Sounds like bring drinks, somebody will pay to me.
3. If this much is being spent on UWI are other areas of the education sector being neglected?
4. What is government policy on entities that receive subventions running relatively large surpluses?
5. Are we getting value for money from this expenditure? Where is the evidence of the extra UWI expenditure driving greater productivity in the society, or driving growth in other ways?
6. Is the government not right to want to get to the bottom of this, or at least exercise control over this?