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SENATE

[2012/2013 SESSION]

REPORT

OF THE

**SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE
APPOINTED TO CONSIDER AND REPORT ON A PRIVATE
BILL ENTITLED *"AN ACT FOR THE INCORPORATION
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTHERN
CARIBBEAN AND MATTERS INCIDENTAL
THERE TO"***

Ordered to be printed by the Senate

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ACT NO. 43 OF 1997	

DATE LAID: 30/01/2013

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Procedure

At a sitting of the Senate held on Thursday September 13, 2012, Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training presented a Petition on behalf of the organisation known as **THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN** (hereinafter referred to as “**The Promoters**”) of Royal Road, Maracas, seeking leave of the Senate for the promoters to proceed with the introduction of a Private Bill for the incorporation of their organisation.

1.1.1 Leave was granted and the Promoters lodged with the Clerk of the Senate the under-mentioned documents within the three (3) months stipulated period thereby satisfying the requirements of Standing Order 76(5)(a),(b) and (c) of the Senate:

- (a) two (2) copies of the Bill;
- (b) a certificate from the Comptroller of Accounts certifying that the sum of one thousand three hundred dollars (\$1, 300) to cover the cost of advertising, printing and miscellaneous charges, had been paid to the Comptroller of Accounts; and
- (c) a bond duly executed and signed by Dr. Clinton Valley, President and Mrs. Janette Cupid-St. Hilaire, obliging them to pay on demand to the Clerk any excess of the deposited sum.

1.1.2 Notices were published in the Trinidad and Tobago Gazette and Trinidad Guardian Newspaper on October 04, 11 and 18, 2012 informing the public of the intended introduction of a Private Bill for the incorporation of the University of the Southern Caribbean.

1.1.3 As a result, the Private Bill entitled “**The University of the Southern Caribbean (Incorporation) Bill, 2012**” was introduced and read a First time in the Senate on Tuesday November 20, 2012.

1.2 Appointment of Committee

At a sitting of the Senate held on Tuesday November 27, 2012, the aforementioned Bill was read a Second time and in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 76(8), the President of the Senate, appointed a Special Select Committee comprising the following Members:

Mr. Fazal Karim	Chairman
Ms. Marlene Coudray	Member
Mr. Embau Moheni	Member
Ms. Pennelope Beckles	Member
Dr. Lennox Bernard	Member

1.3 Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Committee were:

to consider and report on a Private Bill entitled ‘**AN ACT for the incorporation of the University of the Southern Caribbean and matters incidental thereto**’

1.4 Secretarial Assistance

Secretariat support for the Committee was provided by:

Ms. Khisha Peterkin	-	Secretary to the Committee
Ms. Katharina Gokool	-	Graduate Research Assistant

1.5 Meeting

The Committee held one (1) meeting on Tuesday December 04, 2012.

2. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

2.1 At the meeting held on Tuesday December 04, 2012, your Committee examined the following witnesses (The Promoters):

Mrs. Merna Riley-Des Vignes
Ms. Bernadine Mc Intyre
Mr. Romney Thomas
Ms. Andrea Orie

Director Human Resources
Financial Comptroller
Attorney at Law
Attorney at Law

2.2 During its deliberations and in addition to taking oral evidence from the Promoters, your Committee examined a copy of the Private Bill entitled, "The University of the Southern Caribbean (Incorporation) Bill, 2012" and the a Binder with following documents were submitted by the Promoters:

1. A list of the Board of Trustees
 2. The Operating Systems and By Laws of USC
 3. Audited Annual Financial Statements for the years ended June 30, 2011, 2010 and 2009
 4. Minutes of the University of the Southern Caribbean's Board of Trustees
 5. Certificate of Conferral of Title on the University of the Southern Caribbean;
and
- A copy of the Caribbean Union College (Incorporation) Act, 1997

3. **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 The Committee made a careful examination of the Clauses and Preamble of the Bill and took into consideration all the evidence. The Committee is satisfied that the facts and allegations presented in the Bill are true and correct.

3.2 The Committee recommended that the fine of one hundred and twenty dollars and to a further fine of ten dollars' for failure to register the address and any change thereof be increased.

3.3 The Committee wishes to report that it has completed its deliberations and has found sufficient proof to support the incorporation of the University of the Southern Caribbean by an Act of Parliament.

3.4 The Committee therefore recommends that this Bill be passed by the Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Sgd.
Mr. Fazal Karim
Chairman

Sgd.
Ms. Marlene Coudray
Member

Sgd.
Mr. Embau Moheni
Member

Sgd.
Ms. Pennelope Beckles
Member

Sgd.
Dr. Lennox Bernard
Member

APPENDIX 1

MINUTES

***SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE APPOINTED TO CONSIDER AND REPORT
ON A BILL ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR THE INCORPORATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN AND MATTERS INCIDENTAL THERETO"***

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING HELD IN
DR. WAHID ALI ROOM, LEVEL 6, TOWER D
ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 04, 2012 AT 11:00 A.M.**

Present were:

Mr. Fazal Karim	Chairman
Ms. Marlene Coudray	Member
Dr. Lennox Bernard	Member
Ms. Khisha Peterkin	Secretary
Ms. Katharina Gookool	Research Assistant

**Also in attendance were the following officials of
The University of the Southern Caribbean (Promoters of Bill)**

Mr. Romney Thomas	Attorney-at-Law (Partner)
Ms. Andrea Orie	Attorney-at-Law
Mrs. Merna Riley Des Vignes	Director - Human Resource
Ms. Bernadine Mc Intyre	Financial Comptroller

Absent

Mr. Embau Moheni	Member
Ms. Penelope Beckles	Member (Excused)

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and members were welcomed to the first meeting of the Committee.

1.2 *Quorum*

The Chairman advised Members that under Standing Order 73(5) of the Senate and explained that the quorum for a Special Select Committee is three, inclusive of the Chairman.

CONSIDERATION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

2.1 The Chairman indicated to Members that the terms of reference as given by the Senate were:

“to consider and report on a Bill entitled, “An Act for the incorporation of the University of the Southern Caribbean and matters incidental thereto”

2.2 The Chairman referenced the relevant Standing Orders for the procedure to be adopted in Select Committees of the House of Representatives.

2.3 A short discussion ensued on the procedure to be employed with respect to the way forward.

2.4 The Members reviewed the Bill clause by clause and concluded there were no issues with the legislation but Members had some questions on the administration and operations of the University.

EXAMINATION OF THE PROMOTERS OF THE BILL

The University of the Southern Caribbean

3.1 The Chairman requested the Clerk to invite the following Officials to join the meeting:

Mrs. Merna Riley Des Vignes	Director - Human Resource
Ms. Bernadine Mc Intyre	Financial Comptroller
Mr. Romney Thomas	Attorney-at-Law (Partner)
Ms. Andrea Orie	Attorney-at-Law

3.2 The Chairman welcomed the officials. Introductions were exchanged between both sides.

3.3 The Chairman invited Ms. Andrea Orie to provide background on The University of the Southern Caribbean (USC).

3.4 The following points were made by the Officials:

- (i) The organization was founded 85 years ago with financial contributing Members/Trustees throughout the Caribbean thereby forming the Caribbean Union.
- (ii) The organization was initially a Training College and later became the Caribbean Union College which only offered Associate Degrees and some Undergraduate Programmes. In the Caribbean Union's commitment to developing the Caribbean's human resource they took the next step towards gaining university status which saw an expansion in the Programmes offered by the University.
- (iii) The University offers thirty-five Undergraduate Programmes including Minors with a student population of 2 800. With a specific focus on research, there are Programmes within the six schools at USC at the Undergraduate

- (iv) level, which include the School of Business, Humanities, Theology and Religion; Education and Human Science and Technology.
- (v) Currently there are approximately 200 students enrolled in the eight major Post Graduate Programmes at the University. They include specialized areas such as a Masters of Business Administration; a MBA with an Emphasis on Finance or Health Administration; Masters in Educational Psychology, Human Communication, Education Administration and Leadership, Curriculum and Instruction, Counseling Psychology and Pastoral Theology.
- (vi) The University had student dropouts for the past year. However, market research was done to evaluate the reason for student dropouts at the University. The survey will also determine the needs of the society and how can USC meet those needs.
- (vii) No surveys have been conducted on the performance of USC students in the workplace but there have been positive feedback from employers especially the students that graduated with the Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- (viii) The USC has a Sports and Physical Education Department and facilities are available on the compound. The University also has an official team for all the popular sporting activities such as football, basketball, volleyball, tennis and the cricket team which functions at the national level as well as at the intervarsity level.
- (ix) The Officials informed the Committee that at the University has spent \$500,000 to upgrade its library resources especially the electronic data base. Currently students have access to 100, 000 print and electronic books which is divided into 30, 000 print books and 70, 000 electronic books. Most of the money went to developing an electronic data base to facilitate persons in accessing books online and to enhance the library security system which uses RFID Technology, it is the latest development in library security and the only of its kind in the Caribbean.
- (x) The main challenge for the University has been funding to upgrade its technology in order to keep abreast of global standards and in recognizing the need for distance learning classes.
- (xi) The social returns on capital to the benefit of the society have been the holistic development of the persons sent out into the workplace; students are involved in academics and a lot of community activities, such as disaster relief efforts not only in Maracas but in other areas throughout Trinidad and Tobago.
- (xii) The University intends to open Campuses in San Fernando and Tobago.

- 3.5 The Chairman invited the Officials of the USC to make closing comments.
- 3.6 The Chairman asked that a Report be prepared and circulated to Members via email for comments and suggestions.

ADJOURNMENT

- 4.1 There being no other business the Chairman thanked Members for their attendance and adjourned the meeting.
- 4.2 The adjournment was taken at 12:03 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

December 05, 2012