



## **WILLIAM V.S. TUBMAN UNIVERSITY**

*Tubman Town, MARYLAND COUNTY*

**MAILING:** P.O. BOX 3570 HARPER, MARYLAND COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, WEST AFRICA

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### *Office of the President*

## **Tubman University: President's Progress Report to Foundation Board March, 2019**

### **Introduction**

I bring you greetings from the administrative, instructional and the general staff.

This progress report covers the activities of Academic Year 2018/2019. The major activities of concern are indicated herein:

#### **❖ Signing of (MOU Green Gold )**

During the period under review, the University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Green Gold Liberia, for the purpose of Renewable Energy activities. The activities have not begun due to financial challenges Green Gold is faced with in securing funding for the project. However, the University is hopeful that Green Gold will succeed in its endeavor as this initiative stands to impact the University in terms of internal revenue, and livelihood of the City of Harper and its surroundings.

#### **❖ Signing of MoU (California State University, Sacramento, USA)**

As part of efforts to make the University link with other universities worldwide, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with California State University, Sacramento, USA, in March 2019.

The MoU is also intended to identify viable programs for student, faculty, and staff exchanges.

#### **❖ GIZ**

GIZ, a German Non-Governmental Organization has expressed interest to run the following program in collaboration with the University: Gender Equality, Research and a degree Program for Laboratory Technician. The Gender office is now functioning with the support of GIZ, while the research program will get on its way at the end of March 2019. GIZ is also in the process of finding donors so as to begin the Laboratory Technician Program.



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#### ❖ **Construction of Commencement Hall**

As indicated in the last quarter report, the Cabinet and the Council have agreed to construct a Commencement Hall. After all processes that precede the procurement Law of Liberia, a construction firm, ECHO Construction Company was selected for the construction of the commencement hall. As it stands construction work has begun and it is hopeful that the hall will be in use for the sixth commencement convocation.

#### ❖ **Extension of Access to College Program in Pleebo**

Based on the request from the citizens of Pleebo, the University Council has extended its Pre-College Program, Access to College Program to Pleebo City.

#### ❖ **Progress on the Ten-Classroom Building**

In order to accommodate more students on campus, my administration has started the construction of ten classrooms building in the period under review. As we speak, the building is partially been used for instruction purposes.

#### ❖ **Final Implementation of SAPEC Program**

Following the construction of the unit for the SAPEC Program, the Ministry of Agriculture through the coordinator of SAPEC has supplied furniture and equipment to start the SAPEC Program in the University. SAPEC has also agreed to hire ten teachers through the University for the period of eleven months.

#### ❖ **Impact of Tuition Waiver**

The Administration has wholeheartedly welcomed the kind gesture of the Visitor to the University, to waive the tuition of all students in Government's tertiary institutions in Liberia. However, this may impede the functions of the University as it relates to goods and services for effective operation, if allotments in place of the tuition are not made in time. Up to date, the University has not received last semester allotment as it relates to tuition waiver. This situation continues to increase the liabilities of the University as it relates to the payment of allotment for goods and services including that of tuition waiver is delayed.



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#### ❖ **Challenges**

The University is facing series of challenges regarding the employment of faculties due to the cut in its annual budget from National Government. Of the twenty faculties that were targeted to be hired, only seven teachers were hired. This has posed a serious academic problem in the Colleges.

#### ❖ **Insufficient Instructional Staff**

There is a shortage of instructional staff across the colleges. This poses a serious threat to the stability of the campus. Administration is not in the position to hire additional instructional staff due to the reduction in its 2018/2019 annual budget. In other to calm the situation, key administrators including me have found themselves in the classroom. We are hopeful that central government will understand the plight of the University in the 2019/2020 fiscal budget.

#### ❖ **Graduation**

The planning activities for the sixth graduation exercise have started and it is expected to be held in June 2019. In consultation with the President, the Acting Board Chairperson, Dr. Francis N. Kateh has pledged to negotiate with the Swedish Ambassador to serve as Guest Speaker. Graduation will be delayed unlike the traditional day May 31<sup>st</sup> due to the schedule of the Guest Speaker of this year.

#### ❖ **Extraordinary Convocation**

The President, Dr. Elliott Wreh-Wilson and his cabinet in consultation with the Board of Governors have decided to confer an Honorary Doctor of Law (LLB) on the President of Liberia and the Visitor of the University, Dr. George M. Weah in the last week of March upon his official visit to Maryland County.