## **Grad School Administers First Aptitude Test**



Cross-section of candidates at the GSAT

Over 200 candidates showed up at the Tubman University Graduate School first-ever aptitude test. The test, dubbed Graduate School Aptitude Test (GSAT), was administered at the Engineer Building Annex (EBA) on the University's main campus on Saturday, January 18, 2023. Most of the candidates who wrote the GSAT were graduates of the undergraduate programs, chiefly from across the southeastern counties of River Gee, Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, and host Maryland.

In September 2020, the National Commission on Higher Education (NCHE) accredited TU to offer and award graduate degrees.

Per NCHE endorsement, "each college at Tubman University will now offer a minimum of one program with at least two tracks", Dr. Emmanuel Leon Sieh Wreh, Acting President of TU clarified.

There are currently six colleges within the undergraduate programs, including Engineering and Technology, Education, Arts and Sciences, Health Sciences, Business and Administration, and Agriculture and Food Science. Students seeking to matriculate at the Grad School may choose to enroll in the College of Engineering & Technology for MSC or Meng in Engineering Management, for the College of Health Sciences - Master of Global Public Health and Master of Health Administration; for College of Education- Master of Education in Educational Leadership (Principalship) and Master of Education in Curriculum & Instructions; for College of Agriculture - Master of Science in Agronomy; for College of Arts & Science - Master of Science in Environmental Science and Master of Arts in Demography & Population Studies; and for College of Business and Administration - Master of Business Administration in International Human Resources Management.

With the opening of TU Grad School, Liberia has reached yet another critical milestone in developing the human resource capacity of its youthful population by making graduate education available, accessible, and affordable in the southeastern part of the country. Until now, the University of Liberia (UL) was Liberia's only state-owned university accredited by NCHE to offer master's programs. The Grad School is set to commence classes in March of 2023.

Commenting on readiness, Dr. Wreh assured the public that Administration is presently recruiting twelve terminal-degree professors to join the other six who are already on campus teaching in the undergraduate programs. He added that GOL, through its Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), has approved allocation within the fiscal year – 2023, to address issues of salaries and housing allowances for expected new faculty. Dr. Wreh described the opening of the Graduate School in the Southeast as the "first of its kind since the formation of Liberia".

Meanwhile, before and after administering the test, TU Times took the microphone to several candidates to gauge their opinions on running a graduate program. "Had this opportunity existed, most of us would have earned our masters long since, brother", said Elton Dickson (43) from Pleebo, Maryland County, who earned a bachelor's degree in Public Administration from TU in 2014. Like Elton, all those interviewed expressed great joy about Graduate School. "We no longer have to struggle hard to live in Monrovia just to get a master's degree. This is good news for us in the Southeast, and I encourage all my colleagues to make maximal use of this long-awaited opportunity", Thomas Saway (42) from Grand Kru County.

The GSAT Result is expected to be published soon on various platforms of the University, including its official websites.