



Transformation for Worthy Service

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## 2023, GOL to Expand TU Fiscal Envelope

Tubman University is set to receive a budgetary boost, pending the legislature's approval of the 2023 fiscal budget, according to Mr. Emmanuel Y. Harmon, Associate Vice President for Budget and Finance. He put the institution's projected fiscal envelope for 2023 at US\$6,250,308, representing a 16.6% increase compared to US\$5,321,398 during the last fiscal year. Of this amount, salaries account for US\$5,213,347, US\$400,000 for public sector investment Projects (PSIPs) and the rest goes towards costs of goods and services.

At the same time, the university's staff has received a significant boost in salaries, affecting all employees – including maintenance workers and security guards. Last year (2022), faculty staff received sixty percent of their approved salary augmentation, while the balance of forty percent of their pay raises will be triggered by what the Administration termed as a 'credential audit' scheduled to be conducted by the government in April this year. According to the GOL, this process is intended to review the academic credentials of all faculty staff at all tertiary institutions in Liberia for quality assurance, compliance, and promotion purposes. "We also thought it was necessary to increase the salaries of our employees here due to the high cost of living in the Southeast. And thankfully, the Ministry of Finance and the Civil Service Agency (CSA) heeded our call", Mr. Harmon expounded.

In reality, the cost of living in the Southeast is one of the highest in Liberia. This is due to several factors, such as distance from the nation's capital, and the deplorable condition of the roads. Prices of goods and services are three times higher, in comparison to those of Monrovia.

TU, Liberia's second state-run university, is located in the coastal city of Harper in the southeastern part of the country near the border with the Republic of La Côte d'Ivoire. The institution depends on budgetary support from the national government to fund most of its activities – including personnel salaries, goods and services, and capital projects. "We are definitely looking forward to other partners locally and internationally to help fill in other financial gaps", Mr. Harmon appealed.

## Grad School Administers First Aptitude Test

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.

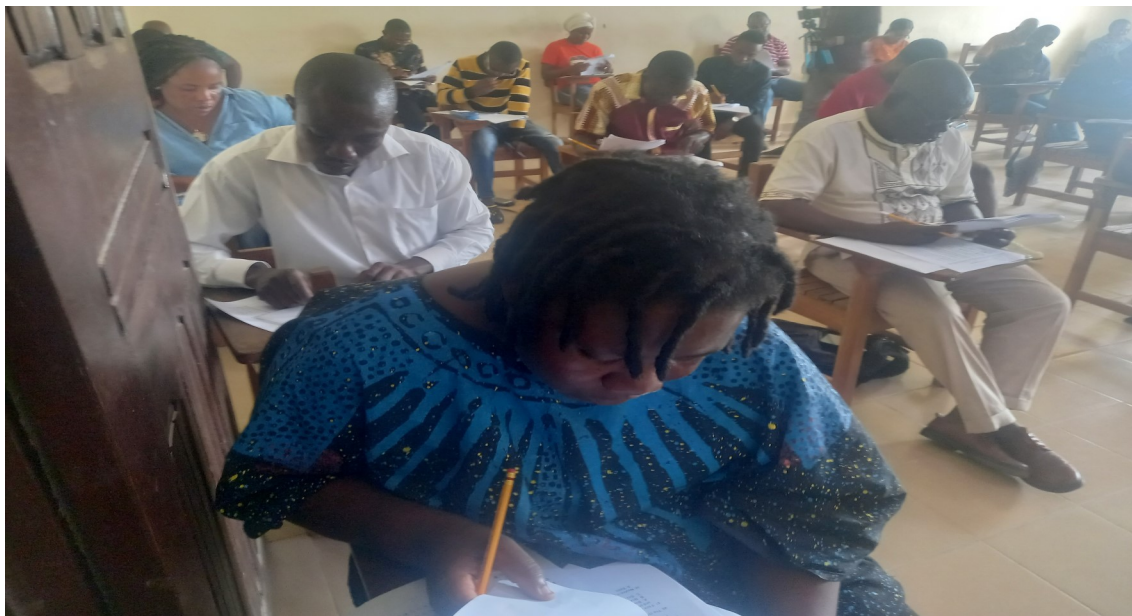
Cross-section of candidates at the GSAT With the opening of TU Grad School, Liberia has reached yet another critical milestone in developing the human resource capacity of its youthful population by making graduate education available, accessible, and affordable in the southeastern part of the country. 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”.

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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.





## PIH Turns Over Modern E-Learning Center

A US-based international Health NGO Partners in Health (PIH) has turned over a state-of-the-art e-learning facility. The ceremony was held at the Engineering Building Annex (EBA) on the main campus of William V. S. Tubman University in Tubman Town.

Receiving the keys to the facility, TU Acting President Emmanuel L. S. Wreh (Ph.D.) expressed joy over what he described as a “modern e-learning center”. He added, “the Graduate School, which is expected to be operational soon, will also utilize this facility.” The E-Learning Center is a secure, online environment that brings together data, research methods, analytical tools, references, and people at the point of investigation or decision-making. It will also serve as an easy platform where students and academic staff can access the full potential of scientific work and findings and share resources on demand. The occasion was attended by a 9-man high-level delegation of PIH headed by its Deputy Executive Director, Viola Karanjay.

PIH is one of Tubman University’s major partners, particularly supporting the nursing, midwifery, and public health programs within the College of Health sciences through external capacity-building training for faculty, enhancing teaching and learning infrastructure, curriculum development, and scholarships for undergraduate students.



### TUFA and Administration Find Common Ground



**Prof. Emmanuel L.S. Wreh, Ph.D.**  
Acting President of TU



**Asst. Prof. Francis Fukah, MSc**  
President of TUFA

Following Tubman University Faculty Association's (TUFA) decision to withhold students' last semester's grades, which stalled normal registration activities, especially for returning students, the University Administration announced it has reached a mutually acceptable consensus with the leadership of the Association. The two-page document released by the Office of the Acting President includes: reimbursement of monies paid by foreign faculties for work permits, allocation of office space for TUFA, increment in allowances for academic department heads, and setting up of a joined committee of TUFA and Academic Affairs to draw up immediate, intermediate, and long-term needs for laboratories.

The parties also agreed to set up 15 pieces of computers already delivered – pending the arrival from Monrovia of the remaining 15 computers within two weeks. Additionally, TUFA and Administration would make subsequent radio appearances on Phoenix FM (TU radio station) to unveil details for the beginning of registration for Semester II, AY2022-2023. According to a previously approved academic calendar, registration for all students – including returning, new, and transferred – should have begun and ended January 4 – 21, 2023.

Nevertheless, due to the delay in releasing students' grades to Registrar's office, only new students are being processed to date. Meanwhile, the registration of returning students will begin on Tuesday, January 31, 2023 based on the above consensus. The disclosure was made by Mr. J. Philip August Theoway, when he appeared on our live broadcast show 'Talking TU' on Phoenix 102.7 FM. He said the academic calendar is undergoing readjustment and will be released soon. "We apologize to our students for such inconvenience. We are also thankful to the leadership of the Faculty Association and heads of various student groupings that played a very positive role in ending the impasse", Mr. Theoway stated.

## Academic Affairs Holds Faculty Orientation Workshop

The Division of Academic Affairs has concluded a one-day orientation and workshop on Friday, February 3, 2023. The training drew participants from various colleges and academic departments of the University.

Giving an overview of the workshop, the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA), Dr. Mlen-Too Wesley, extended a warm welcome to returning faculty staff from their Christmas and New Year break, which coincided with the end of Semester I, AY2022-2023. Dr. Wesley explained that the purpose of the orientation and workshop was to rejuvenate the academic and intellectual zest of all faculty staff as they began a new semester. He described the training as a scholastic tradition intended to sharpen the skills of faculty staff. He further expressed hope that participants would learn new skills and techniques at the workshop to enhance and facilitate a better teaching and learning environment.

The workshop was structured into two-part series, with three sections. Topics included: Rewriting and building one's academic portfolio for professional development, practicing the five pillars of academic integrity to enhance academic quality and excellence; and Making a positive difference through academic advisement consultation of students. Lead discussants were Prof. Iona Thomas-Connor and Prof. Isaac A. Adetunde – for section I, Mr. Philip Jaypay III and Mr. Abraham W. Z. Amaning – for section II; and Mr. Solomon Saad & Mr. Francis K. Fukah – for section III.

The presentations were followed by group discussions by each college, focusing on ways to carry out the three topics at the college level. The colleges then returned and deliberated on the outcomes of their respective focal group discussions, which climaxed the event.

Similarly, a two-day faculty orientation and workshop was also conducted last semester.



## Faculty Orientation & Workshop Pictorial



## TU to Send Ten Students to the US

At least ten students have been selected to attend the Study of US Institute for Young Women Leaders on Economic Empowerment, this year. The study is an intensive five-week program hosted by the University of Delaware in Newark, DE.

The initiative is a rigorous short-term academic program that aims to provide groups of young women undergraduate student leaders with a “deeper understanding of the United States, while simultaneously enhancing their leadership skills.” Thematic areas include but are not limited to: an overview of the U.S. economic system and structures, economic prosperity and opportunity, building sustainable economies, inequities in economies, financial access, entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial ecosystems, social capital development, financial literacy, and organizational development and management, according to the Study’s website.

Meanwhile, the department of Gender and Development of TU has released a list of the ten (10) female students as beneficiaries of the study, Briefing TU Times, Gender Director, Mrs. Ade Elliott-Ledlum, said the ten students were selected based on a set of criteria by the US Embassy. Some of the criteria, as Mrs. Ledlum explained, include: “a sustained high level of academic achievement, a demonstrated commitment to community service and extracurricular university activities, being mature, responsible, independent, confident, open-minded, tolerant, thoughtful, and inquisitive; indicate a serious interest in learning about the United States; and be comfortable with campus life, prepared to share living accommodations, and able to adjust to cultural and social practices different from those of their homes. Eligible candidate must be a female between 18 and 25 years, and must have at least one semester left of their undergraduate studies, and demonstrate proficiency in the English language.”

The selectees are expected to be finally vetted by the US Embassy in Monrovia.



Mrs. Ade Elliott-Ledlum  
Director of Gender interacting with students



# TU Times

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We're on the web!  
[www.tubmanu.edu.lr](http://www.tubmanu.edu.lr)

## William V.S. Tubman University History & Facts

Chartered: 14 September 2009

Vision: TU aspires to be a center of quality and excellence

Mission: Provide quality educational experiences that transform the lives of individuals for worthy service

- TU has 6 Colleges:
  - Agriculture & Food Sciences
  - Arts & Sciences
  - Education
  - Engineering & Technology
  - Health Sciences
  - Management & Public Administration

## Upcoming Events:

### TU Times Newsletter

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