

Greetings from The UWI Cave Hill Campus

On the Induction of

Brian Russell Nigel Copeland

July 8th, 2017

Chancellor, on behalf of the courageous Cave Hill Campus, located in beautiful Barbados, I am delighted to deliver gracious greetings to Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor Brian, Russell, Nigel Copeland, on his induction as the ninth Principal of the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies. My fellow Principal occupies the leadership of this venerable institution, girded by three engineering degrees and a wealth of academic, administrative, industrial, and innovative experience. Most fittingly, Chancellor, his first class honours in Electrical Engineering from this Campus, served as the conduit for a Masters from the University of Toronto and a PhD from the University of Southern California.

Chancellor, the titles of his masters' and PhD theses provide clues to the leadership focus and style of this man. He mastered, "Multiloop Robust Control Systems Design." And he successfully defended and dissected, "Cheap and Singular H_2 and H_∞ Control Problems: A Generalized Eigenproblem Approach." Chancellor, as a Social Scientist, I will not linger on the erudite, electrifying, engineering knowledge these studies convey. I am much more fascinated with the prescience of his key words. These are 'singular, cheap, control, robust and multiloop'. It seems as if in gaining his graduate degrees in 1981 and 1990, the latter part of the 20th century, Professor Copeland had some anticipation of the course of events that would facilitate his journey to this evening. There must have been some divine omniscience at play in his Engineering knowledge production process that would have predisposed him to select terms, every one of which will

feature in his leadership of the St. Augustine Campus in the early 21st century.

Chancellor, I do not know, if like one of my favourite Trinidadian philosophers, he was already experiencing the bass man in his head. We do know Professor Copeland didn't go and plant peas in Tobago, but instead, Pim Pom, decided to cultivate minds for the Republic and the Region and as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering has graduated hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students to prove it. Yet some foreknowledge of events must have warned him that he would be Principal at a time of austerity with the need for heightened efficiency. So even though he don't want to dance, and while we would never associate cheap with the high quality of a UWI education, Principal Copeland has to do the multi looping corporate prance, and ensure education at the St. Augustine Campus remains affordable and accessible.

Chancellor, we fully expect PVC Copeland to display exceptional leadership. Nothing less is required for a multisite Campus of 17, 500 plus students, serving the higher education, human resource needs of a sophisticated, vibrant society. The Engineer in this Principal will witness a clinical managing of the Campus' complex environment and a masterful control of potential adversities.

And Chancellor, you may ask, why can I be so confident of the robust and innovative character of Professor Copeland's leadership? Well, Chancellor, my answer is easy. The Bass man has indeed taken up residence in Professor Copeland's head; and unlike the Mighty Shadow who tried unsuccessfully to expel him, my fellow Principal welcomed him in, allowed him to do his thing, he listened to the bass man, and together they gave us the fusion of electrical and computer engineering in Steelpan technology. They pulled

notes together and the next thing we knew, we had the innovation and syncopation of the extremely versatile GPan, Pim Pom.

So Principal Copeland, the Cave Hill Campus and I join in saluting you. We will watch you achieve the heights of Campus harmony in the music of your leadership. We know you are unafraid of the mental fortitude required for this remarkable journey and we congratulate you on this joyous occasion. We celebrate your formal assumption of Office and look forward with anticipation to see the unfolding of your leadership of innovation and imagination. I wish you a very successful tenure Principal Copeland, one that will be singularly marked by wisdom and discernment

Welcome Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal Brian. I look forward to working with you to advance the UWI's mission and vision, welcome and congratulations.

Eudine Barriteau, July 7th, 2017.