

# J BAGUANT CENTRE

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**Mr A Parahoo**  
*Director*

## INTRODUCTION

The J Baguant Centre for Distance Learning, after the rich and eventful year of 2001-2002, conceived the period under review as one of consolidation. Much time and effort were spent on managing the Centre's new mandate and structure that had been approved by Senate.

## MAIN DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES

### Staff Matters

The following two Trainee Instructional Designers, who were recruited in 2001, were promoted to the post of Instructional Designer on 03 January 2003:

1. Mrs S Ajaheb-Jahangeer
2. Mrs R Rajkomar

This brought the Centre's effective force of Instructional Designers to 3.

### Strategic Shift

#### Structure

The Centre further diversified its core activities and was more proactive over the period under review.

It assisted in the development of the 3 core modules for the Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Applications programme.

As a Teaching and Learning Unit, it contributed towards capacity building of the University as far as Higher Education pedagogy and andragogy were concerned.

### Postgraduate Programme

The Centre continued running modules for the Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma/ MSc in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. It is to be noted that this programme is meant for the Academic Staff of the University. The Programme is being sustained under the link with Technikon Pretoria, and the training activities from September 2002 to July 2003 were as follows:

CODE	MODULE	TIME	NO OF ACADEMIC STAFF
TAL 5010	Academic Induction	30th Sept 2002 - 11th Oct 2002	17
		15th July 2003 – 25th July 2003	22
TAL 5011	Knowledge Structure	30th Sept 2002 - 11th Oct 2002	37
		12th Dec 2002 – 19th Dec 2002	10
		15th July 2003 – 25th July 2003	8

Seventy-four academic staff successfully completed the module TAL 5010, and twenty-four the module TAL 5011.

## ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

### Development of New Manuals

Distance Education manuals for the following three core modules were developed for the Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Applications:

- 1 Software Development Methodologies (CSE 5106):  
by Mr D Sathan, R Ramdhany and Mr J Seetohul from the Faculty of Engineering.
- 1 Database Systems (CSE 5107):  
by Mr A Chuttoo and Ms V Nundloll from the Faculty of Engineering.
- 1 Networking Fundamentals (CSE 5108):  
by Mr D Sathan and Mr J Seetohul from the Faculty of Engineering.

Manuals for the following module were developed for on-campus Students:

- 1 Sociology of the Family (SOCI 1002):  
by Mr I Koodoruth from the Faculty of Social Studies and Humanities.

Finally, manuals for the following module for BSc (Hons) Police Studies were developed:

- 1 Human Resource Management (MGT 3158):  
by Mrs P Baguant from the Faculty of Law and Management.

### Statistics

For the period under review:-

- (i) 6,500 students registered for DE modules; and
- (ii) 6,000 self-instructional manuals of which 1500 were for BSc (Hons) Police Studies, were produced.

### Visitors

Dr D H Gericke and Dr H Smit from Technikon, South Africa visited the Centre to give training to academic staff for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education on the following dates:

- 1 12-18 December 2002
- 1 17-28 March 2003
- 1 12-27 July 2003

## C<sup>^</sup>RENAD PROGRAMME

The University of Mauritius is a member of Centre d'Application d'Etudes et de Ressources en Apprentissage Distance (C<sup>^</sup>RENAD), which is a multi-partner programme aiming at capacity building in distance education. C<sup>^</sup>RENAD is essentially a network relationship, in which partners work, at a distance through audio-conference, visio-conference, and e-mail. However, given the importance of the face-to-face interaction in all virtual activities, an annual gathering of members known as the Journ<sup>^</sup>e C<sup>^</sup>RENAD, is organized on a rotation basis in the member countries.

This year, it was the turn of the University of Mauritius to host the meeting. Some 45 delegates from Tele-Universit<sup>^</sup> (Qu<sup>^</sup>bec), cole Normale Sup<sup>^</sup>rieure (University of Cheik Anta Diop, S<sup>^</sup>n<sup>^</sup>gal), Escuela de Ciencias Exactas Y Naturales (National University for Distance Education, Costa Rica), Instituto de Educa<sup>^</sup>o (Federal University of Mato Grosso, Brazil) and Teleduc (Pontifical Catholic University, Chile) attended the meeting which was held from 21 - 29 October 2002.

The Journ<sup>^</sup>es was an opportunity for all the participants to discuss progress achieved in the various projects and to plan for future activities. The continuation of the C<sup>^</sup>RENAD project, which ends in December 2003 was also an item on the agenda.

University of Mauritius participants were involved in the following projects:

- 1 virtual laboratories in Ethno-botany,
- 1 a programme in Higher Education Pedagogy,
- 1 online modules in environment that will contribute to the mounting of an international postgraduate programme in Environment,
- 1 a module on Intercultural Communication,
- 1 a module on Gender Equality.

## LIFE-LONG LEARNING

In line with the Strategic Plan of the University, the Centre started exploring niches in the emerging Life-Long Learning sector. During the period under review the Centre was involved in negotiations with the Mauritius Ports Authority, the European Union and the Ministry of Economic Development, Financial Services and Corporate Affairs with a view to offering, on multi-mode delivery, a Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma/MSc in Port Management and Shipping Administration.