

President, Dr. Kevin Brown Shares Vision at First Town Hall Meeting with Staff

UTech, Jamaica Broadcaster <massmailer@utech.edu.jm>

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## President, Dr. Kevin Brown Shares Vision for the Future of UTech, Jamaica at First Town Hall Meeting with Staff



*Dr. Kevin Brown, newly appointed President, University of Technology, Jamaica addresses staff at a Town Hall Meeting on his first day in office, Monday, September 11, 2023, at the Alfred Sangster Auditorium, Papine Campus.*

On his first day in office, Monday, September 11, 2023, President, University of Technology, Jamaica, Dr. Kevin Brown, shared with members of staff, his plan to adapt a collaborative, transformational approach in moving the institution forward. Speaking at a town hall meeting held at the Alfred Sangster Auditorium and streamed via Zoom, Dr. Brown shared his priorities which he noted have been informed by his transitional “listening tour” that he embarked on with the leadership team, members of council, faculty, staff, students, staff unions and alumni weeks ahead of his arrival in office.

Listing his observations gleaned from these meaningful interactions, Dr. Brown stated that among the positive feedback, most members of the University Community acknowledged that:

- UTech, Jamaica is a strong brand
- There is a strong emphasis on STEM
- The institution produces work-ready graduates/outstanding entrepreneurs.
- Some staff are passionate about the institution and views it as their second home.

Dr. Brown also shared his findings on some expressed dissatisfaction with issues related, but not limited to:

- Compensation/benefits
- Accountability of the leadership body
- Collaboration and trust among staff
- Professional development
- Degradation of facilities on Campus.

Dr. Brown assured the staff that he is committed to working with every member of the community in resolving these priority issues. On the matter of compensation, he noted “I have committed to working with the relevant representatives to move forward with one message for the government. We all work for the government of Jamaica and we have to move with one UTech, Jamaica demand.” He noted that in charting a new path forward, the leadership and wider staff “will create space for all of you to share in the governance of this institution” as “the future of this institution will be defined by you the staff, the faculty and the students...Our leaders will have to work with you to shape our future so it is very important that our leaders understand this message”.

## Priorities

The President also gave his commitment to working with the staff to develop a third stream of income for the institution as the Government of Jamaica’s subvention is insufficient to meet the operational cost of the University. “As a public institution, my position is that we are underfunded. We have to work with the Government of Jamaica to resolve that and we can’t depend on fees... We also have to grow a third stream of income” noted Dr. Brown. He further noted that he will be pushing for deeper engagements with UTech, Jamaica alumni and the private sector which can aid in strengthening the financial footing of the University." The President also gave his commitment to aiding the institution’s growth by seeing to the digitization of its campuses, enabling greater investments in research and innovation, refurbishing of the facilities overtime and the promotion of healthy employee relations.

Reflecting on his personal journey, Dr. Brown stated that, “Tertiary education was a very transformative experience for me...all I had for most of my life was a dream.” He continued, “Twenty-six years ago, my mom escorted me to this institution and handed me over to UTech and UTech changed my life. I came in as a little shy countryman, I left as a Students' Union President. I came with a dream and left with a diploma (in Mechanical Engineering) which took me to the UK, so tertiary education can change lives” Dr. Brown reiterated.

Vice President and University Registrar, Miss Marion Brown who earlier introduced Dr. Kevin Brown to members of staff at the meeting, noted that "his journey is nothing short of extraordinary” and a true “demonstration of his unwavering commitment to nation-building and to our University.” She expressed pride that Dr. Brown, a past student and former Students Union President has returned from the UK after several years to serve his country of birth at the helm of leadership of UTech, Jamaica. “We want to say that this is more than an appointment; it is a homecoming of one of our brightest stars” Miss Brown asserted, adding that, “it is not only a testament to our institution’s growth, but a celebration of the caliber of leaders this University produces.”

While welcoming Dr. Brown, the University’s Registrar also expressed a “heartfelt gratitude” to Professor Colin Gyles, CD and Professor Haldane Johnson for their leadership as Acting President and Acting Deputy President, respectively during this transition period” noting that “their tireless efforts have been instrumental in steering our University forward.”

As President, Dr. Brown will serve as chief academic and administrative officer of UTech, Jamaica, reporting directly to the Council and will be principally responsible for implementing the Council’s policies to aid in the efficient operations of the institution.



*On his first day in office on Monday, September 11, 2023, Dr. Kevin Brown, engaged members of the leadership body during a luncheon at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management hotel before addressing the wider staff at a town hall meeting at the Alfred Sangster Auditorium. He also began his tour of the respective colleges and faculties.*

*By Corporate Communications Unit  
Advancement Division  
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