

**University of Buea
Research Planning Days 2019**

Theme:
**Resourcing and Shaping UB
Researchers for Smart Research
Engagements**

**A Situational Analysis
of
Capacity for Research at UB
Presented by
HOD/RP**

Outline

- Introduction
- Human Capacity
- Research governance at UB
- Information resources
- Physical infrastructure
- Funding
- On-going initiative to promote research
- Conclusion

Introduction

- Since its inception as a full-fledged University in 1993, the University of Buea has taken advantage of every available opportunity to develop and sustain a friendly environment to the promotion of its research mission.
- Throughout this period, the University has focused on improvement of quality, productivity, visibility, impact and relevance of research within Cameroon, the Sub-Region and beyond.

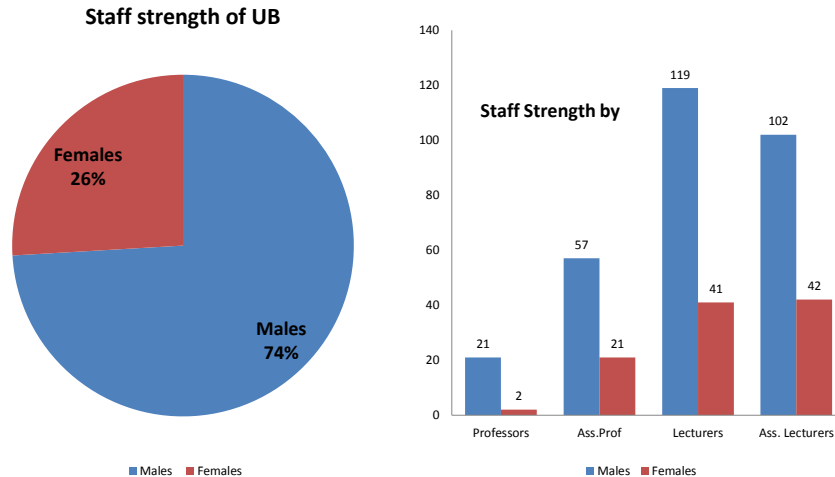
Introduction cont.

- Thus far, significant gains can be observed in the development of institutional frameworks for the promotion of quality and relevance in academic research as well as commendable efforts via workshops, benchmarking and expos, to develop human capacity in research at UB.
- The situational analysis of research at the University of Buea portrays the synopsis of current frameworks/tools governing the conduct of research as well as capacity for research at the University of Buea.

Human Capacity

- **A) Academic Staff Strength**
- The university of Buea has witnessed an increase both in numbers and quality of its academic staff.
- Recent trends suggest an upward mobility in academic ranks with majority of academic staff occupying the rank of lecturers.
- The current staff strength stands at 405 academic staff, 300 (74.1%) males and 105 (25.9%) females. Women are disproportionately represented among the different ranks, with only 2 female professors against 21 males, 21 female Associate Professors compared to 57 males, 41 females as opposed to 119 males at the rank of lecturers, 42 female Assistant Lecturers against 102 males.

Human Capacity



Staff Distribution by Age

- The distribution by age range (figure 2) shows that the majority (77.5%) of academic staff fall within the research active population age group (30-55), with only 22.5% of academic staff within the age range of 55 and above. This offers a good opportunity for the promotion of research at UB given that majority of its staff fall within the active population age group

Academic Staff by Age

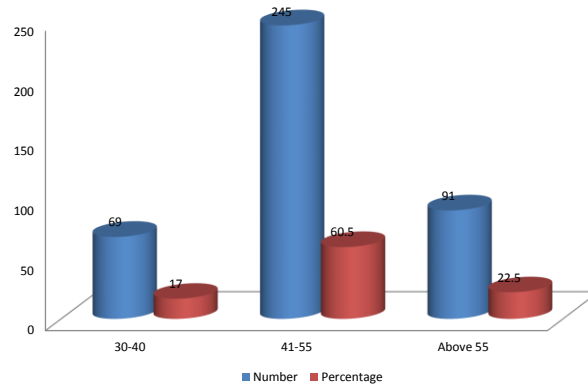


Fig 2: Academic Staff by Age

Staff Strength by Establishment

- At the level of establishments, as presented in Figure 3, the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Social and Management Sciences have the highest number of professors (5) each followed by the of Faculty of Faculty of Health Science.

Staff Strength by Establishments: 2019 Statistics

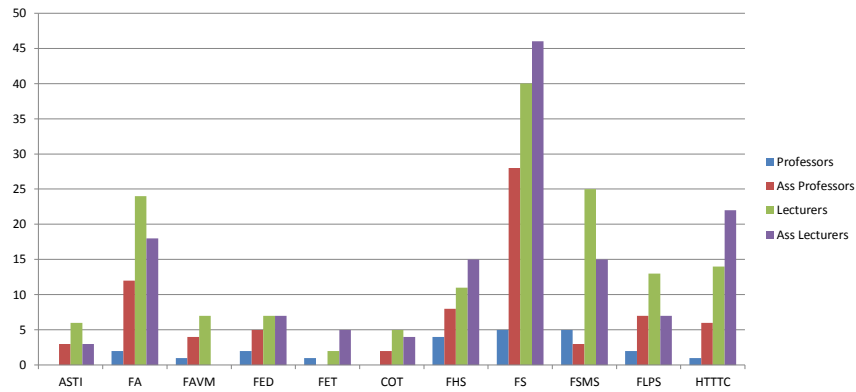


Fig 3: Staff Strength by Establishment

Table 1: Performance at CCIU

Year	Professor	Ass. Prof	Lecturers	Total
2014	2	11	15	28
2015	0	14	18	32
2016	3	19	29	51
2017	2	8	21	31
2018	8	19	21	48

Challenges to Research

- ❑ Staff engagement in research is relatively low due to:
 - heavy teaching burden resulting from high teaching loads,
 - involvement of academic staff in administrative duties and community engagement activities,
 - limited support available to academic staff in the discharge of administrative functions and involvement in community activities.
- ❑ Despite the observed challenges some establishments, notably the faculty of science have demonstrated a good track record of research, particularly as regards the execution of externally funded grants.

Externally Funded Research by Establishment:2006-2019

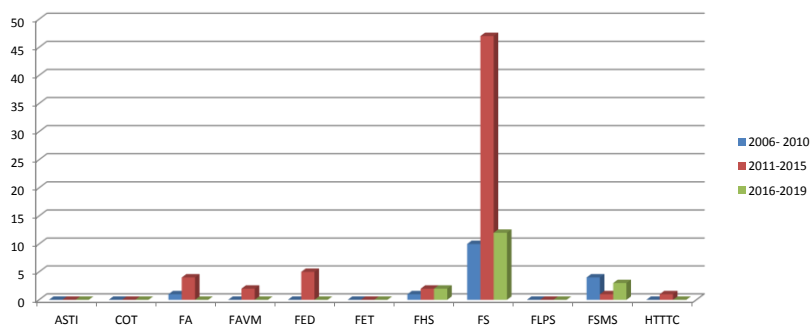


Fig 4: Externally Funded Research by Establishments :2006-2019

Externally Funded Grants

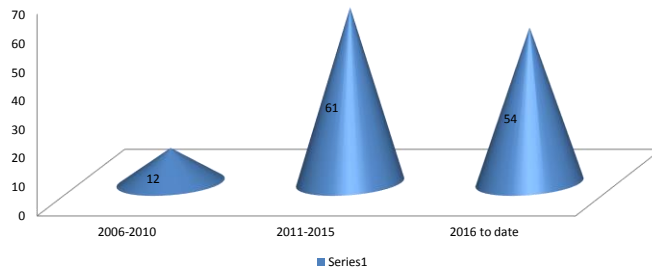


Fig 5: Externally Funded Grants

Technical Staff and Research Assistants

- On average, there is one technician per department in the experimental sciences and engineering, serving both undergraduate training and providing support to staff and student research.
- Postdoctoral programmes: 1709 Theses have been submitted to the Library between 2015-2018

Administrative support

- The Library
- The Directorate of Post-Graduate School
- The research office staffed by 2 part-time administrators and 2 full-time administrators
- A cooperation office staffed by 3 full-time administrators and 1 part-time administrator
- A business Unit staffed by 1 part-time administrator
- Office of Vice-Dean/Research and Cooperation is in all faculties with the exception of FET ASTI, COT, HTTTC.
- Head of service for teaching and research in some of the establishments
- Limited opportunities for professional development

Research Governance at the University of Buea

a) Management Instruments

In addition to national instruments, UB has developed policies, guidelines and a strategy for research:

- The University of Buea Research Policy and Management Guide
- The UB Research and Development strategic Plan, 2018-2024
- The guidelines for the evaluation and accreditation of research programmes, laboratories and centres
- The UB Thesis Guide

b) Management structure and staffing

- We have administrative functions (DVC/RCB, Vice-Deans/RC, Heads of service for Research, etc.) and oversight units (Faculty and Departmental Scientific Committees, Ethics committees).
- Strategic-level management and operational-level administrative staff
- Partially devolved structures, featuring research support units/functions both at the level of the establishments and the Central administration
- Shared responsibilities for specialized skills such as legal and fiscal, public relations and reporting to the wider public

Statistics on Partnership and Cooperation

<i>Statistics on Partnerships and Cooperations</i>	Number
University-Private Sector partnerships	9
Partnerships with other state departments	4
University-University partnerships: National	22
Academic Supervision/Mentorship	17
International	17
International Association and Scholarships Schemes	15
Involvement in networks of excellence	5

Grant Management

Support is available through the research office in terms of:

- Negotiation
- Contractual compliance (ethical, Intellectual properties and fiscal)
- Reporting and communicating research

Information Resources

a) Access to Journals and Book Publications

- Over 40,000 books are held in the University Library,
- Some establishments/Departments have libraries.
- The University is subscribed to over 1 Million electronic peer-reviewed journals under the open access initiative.

b) Management of knowledge produced by UB (tracking, recording, archiving and dissemination)

- Several initiatives have been put in place or are under development;
 - UB Institutional repository (UB Library project)
 - Research Portal
 - Institutional Journals (FA, FSMS and FHS)

Research databases and information management systems are however still fragmentary

c) ICT Facilities

- - IT Centre
- -Digital Library Services
- -American Corner

Physical Infrastructure

Teaching and/or Research Laboratories	Number
Faculty of Science	13
Faculty of Engineering and Technology	1
Advanced School of Translators and Interpreters	1
College of Technology	2
Faculty of Health Sciences	2
Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine	1
Faculty of Social and Management Sciences	1

Specialised laboratories and demonstration units

- Biotech Unit
- Laboratory for Infectious and Re-emerging Diseases
- Geohazards Monitoring Unit
- Integrated Farming Demonstration Site
- Biogas Project Laboratory
- Language Laboratory
- Special Needs Education Laboratory
- FET Renewable Energy Demonstration Units

Communication and Visibility

Research communication platforms:

- UB website – www.ubuea.cm,
- Chariot Radio
- UB research communication centre;
Institutional Journals and the Bun Magazine

Funding

a) Funding mechanisms:

- The Higher Education Research modernisation allowance
- Faculty research grant schemes
- Staff development allocations in the budget of various establishments and central administration
- Partnerships
- External competitive grants

b) Funding sources:

- UB budget
- MINESUP and other state departments
- Partnerships
- Externally funded grants (Charities, Grants organisations, Foreign Governments)

On-going Initiative to promote research at the University of Buea

a) The University of Buea central facility for laboratory analysis (in progress)

The objective is to Support Training and research needs for all disciplines concerned with critical developmental issues such as energy and food security, chemistry and drug/vaccine development, mineral and natural resource development etc

b) The creation of the University of Buea Research and Innovation Fund

The purpose of the fund is to raise fund to:

- support the development of young researchers,
- support collaborative research involving researchers/research teams across disciplines, establishments and external partners
- support Grant resourcing
- promote innovation.

Conclusion

- Our Human resources remain the most critical component of our capacity to do high quality research and attract more external funding.
- The academic staff and postgraduate students need more support and an enabling environment.
- It is our hope that this research planning exercise will provide more ideas on how to do this better.

THE END

THANKS FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION