



## FTPD-Issue 16

*15th January 2021*

The Spring 2021 semester is off to a great start. Faculty and students are much more comfortable with virtual teaching and learning this time around. We are already beginning our preparations for another virtual Spring Commencement and, almost a year and a half after we hired him, we have welcomed our Executive Vice President Dr. Sarim Al-Zubaidy to The Bahamas and our institution.

A colleague sent this quote by Douglas MacArthur which says, “A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others.” We have seen this in action over the last nine months especially, as we battled COVID-19. Leaders in all sectors of our society had to make tough decisions and balance those decisions with a compassionate heart, to deal with the difficulties we all faced. I can certainly say that during this time I have been grateful for the support of the Board, of my colleagues at UB and my family, as I too have had to make difficult decisions regarding the progress of UB.

I know that with Dr. Al-Zubaidy’s expertise as an educator and an administrator, leadership at UB is strengthened. I look forward to a new set of eyes examining UB with me, and I am keen for a fresh perspective on the many issues we will face as we continue to operate under Emergency Orders. Most importantly, Dr. Al-Zubaidy will ensure that our Five-Year Strategic Plan is carried out, while making frequent reports to the Board. I am confident that along with the rest of the senior administration team, we will continue to make the best decisions for the UB Community.

I am excited about this semester – the new opportunities to make UB history; the success of the Class of 2021; the perseverance of faculty, staff and students, and new plans for our UB-North campus; and, of course, our continued journey into new areas of research for The Bahamas. I challenge the country to join us in our excitement as we continue on our mission “to advance and expand access to higher education, promote academic freedom, drive national development and build character through teaching, learning, research, scholarship and service.”

Now is the time to demonstrate the value of having our own national University. Now is the time to accept the fact that having a national University means that we are a member of the global higher education arena. Let us continue to support excellence and the creation of new knowledge.

