

The 3rd KNUST Summer School on Research Management

By Craig Reynolds

Research administration knows no borders! The truth of that statement was never more evident than this past August when three NCURA members visited the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, Ghana to serve as presenters in their 3rd Annual Summer School. Organized by the KNUST Office of Grants and Research (OGR) and the Quality Assurance and Planning Unit, the theme for the school was “**Repositioning KNUST as a Global Institution: Effective Research Management as a Tool.**” The main objective was to help attendees understand the role of research management in the university’s research enterprise, and to help lay the groundwork for establishing OGR as the central office on campus for pre-award and post-award research administration services.

Speakers were from both Ghana and the United States. International speakers were W. Scott Erwin, Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs at Texas State University, Heather Offhaus, Director of the Office of Grant Review & Analysis in the University of Michigan Medical School, and Craig Reynolds, Associate Director of the University of Michigan’s Office of Research and Sponsored Projects. Speaking on the topic of intellectual property in Ghana were Mr. Joseph Tamakloe, Chief State Attorney, Registrar General’s Department, and Mrs. Sarah Anku, Assistant State Attorney, Registrar General’s Department.

Participation and interest in the five-day workshop was impressive. Approximately 200 senior academic and non-academic staff members were in attendance for the program, representing all six colleges in the university as well as KNUST centers and institutes.

Topics covered in the summer school ran the spectrum of research administration, including the roles and responsibilities of an office like OGR, the basic principles of pre-award and post-award research administration, effective proposal writing techniques, the necessity of proposal routing and approval (once the perplexed Ghanians figured out that the American pronunciation of “routing” is “raütting” and not “rooting”), financial processes for grants at KNUST, and audits. Other topics included the patent system in Ghana, and intellectual property and national development.

Participants were clearly engaged, had many excellent questions and critiques, and offered no shortage of suggestions on how to improve research activity and infrastructure at KNUST. Said Craig Reynolds, “I was deeply impressed by everyone I met at the KNUST Summer School. I have no doubt this institution is poised to become one of the leading academic research institutions in West Africa and beyond. Their faculty are eager to expand research at KNUST, their administration is fully supportive of creating a culture of centralized research administration, and they have a great foundation to build upon in the staff of the KNUST Office of Grants and Research. That’s a winning combination for sure!”

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Opening day of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Summer School on Research Management.