

Data versus Rumors: The Faculty Journal

Ordinarily, it should be obvious that our Faculty Journal is the result of a collective effort. It has been published for nearly 20 years continuously and it is one of the success stories of our faculty. The Journal of Engineering Research ought not to be the subject of controversy or a matter for Political Campaign. Unfortunately, the stories going round is that it is dead. It does appear that its “Death” is perceived as a goldmine for causing disaffection in the faculty and therefore becoming a thing of benefit for a particular deanship ambition. You deserve to know the truth; you will find it here:

Here are some pertinent questions:

1. What happened to our Faculty Journal?
2. When did it start getting published online?
3. How many editions in recent times?
4. Is the process not too slow?
5. Final comments?

What Happened to Our Faculty Journal?

January 2013, the editor-in-chief of our Faculty Journal, Professor Funsho Falade submitted his resignation to the dean of Engineering. The reason he gave was his earlier appointment as editor of a university wide journal. In the intervening 18 months, we had no choice but to appoint a new editorial board. In doing this, we noted that the previous six months to this time provided no new edition as the “real editor” was apparently the previous dean. We noted that the journal had been printed regularly in the previous three to four years. We wanted to improve its editorial content and its typography and presentation.

We proceeded to do the following:

1. Appointed two teams: One to be responsible for the intellectual content, the other team to be responsible for the presentation, editing and typography.
2. Increased the remuneration of reviewers.
3. Created a web page for the journal so that it can become an e-journal.

4. Published a printed version as an exact replica of the electronic Edition.
5. Standardized the input requirements to reduce the intervention of copy typists and increased the accuracy of typography.

When did we start publishing online?

Our first online edition started in May 2013. That was the first achievement of the editorial board led by Professor Ike Mowete. Its web address is at www.e-jer.com. Other addresses that are automatically linked to this address are: www.e-jer.co and www.e-jer.org. These are more domains, created in this deanship and owned by the Faculty of Engineering, Unilag.

How many editions in recent times?

On www.e-jer.com you will find three editions in the archive. As we speak, there are enough articles at different stages of the review process for a fourth edition. They will be available online in two to three weeks. One advantage of the online edition is that

we can start uploading as soon as individual articles pass the two editing stages and are in the final format for publishing.

Is the production not too slow?

From the period of May 2013 to June 2014, four editions of our journal may appear slow. Let us assume that we are merely giving excuses, as we have been accused of. How do you get to know the whole truth? **The University of Lagos Journal, edited by our former editor in chief, has produced only one edition in the same time frame.** If four editions are slow, what can we say about a single edition supported by the might and resources of the whole university?

If the fact a prolonged ASUU strike is inexcusable for our Journal of Engineering Research, we think it is only fair to extend the same courtesy to the other university journal that was only able to come up with one edition in the same period. This edition is a printed copy ONLY while the **Journal of Engineering Research exists both in printed**

edition and online. We have the web address of www.e-jer.com. The other journal, in comparison, has not got a web address! There are no electronic editions!

Final comments.

Our Faculty Journal is at a higher level than previously. Its editorial content and editing requirements are of a higher quality. We are grateful to the administration of Professor MA Salau for the effort to make the journal come out regularly. It is to their credit that our deanship improves on that success. We have already put things in place for the journal to have the following two facilities:

1. E-payment has already been designed for the journal so that you can pay for reading or downloading by article. We are not activating this until the readership and the hits on our site justifies that. Our goal is to first increase the readership and influence of the journal.
2. The separation of the journal from the deanship. WE have brought this matter to the Faculty Board of Studies: what we hear you say is that you want an independent

editorial system. You also want the Editor-in-Chief to be approved by the Faculty Board while his/her tenure be four to five years.

These are being looked into and you can see we are in the process of implementing both.