UM/UWC Trip Report
July 27 - August 22, 2005
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Purpose

I was appointed by University of Missouri President Elson S. Floyd to take the position as Director of the University of Missouri South African Education Program as of July 1, 2005. Because I had already agreed to direct the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law Study Abroad Program at the University of the Western Cape from June 9 to July 17, I could not immediately assume responsibility for many aspects of the position. Among other tasks, Joel Glassman graciously agreed to attend the ALO Conference in Washington, D.C. in July. He also agreed to remain as the UM director of our ongoing ALO project until September 1.

As the attached itinerary demonstrates, one of my major goals was to meet as many of the deans, department heads and key administrative personnel at UWC as possible. Although I was very familiar with the law faculty at UWC, I knew few other people at the school before this visit. Not only did I meet many people during my visit, I learned more about past and ongoing academic exchanges between our two universities. In addition, I discussed future plans with people already familiar with the UM/UWC linkage and talked about potential collaborations with some UWC faculty members who had only a limited understanding of our partnership.

A second goal of mine was to establish a good working relationship with Professor Jan Persens, the UWC Director of International Relations. I spent considerable time with Professor Persens talking about the history of this partnership, ongoing projects, hurdles to be overcome, and future projects we should consider initiating. In particular, Professor Persens was very interested in following through on an idea that he and Ron Turner had discussed for several years. That is, that six or seven people from UWC who are very involved in HIV-AIDS work come to Missouri to meet with the group of UM faculty members who have already expressed an interest in working on some aspect of a joint UWC/UM HIV-AIDS project. It is our hope that some time in 2006, we can arrange the HIV-AIDS meeting.
In addition, Professor Persens and I spent considerable time discussing the difficulty of prioritizing the exchange applicants we received and the criterion to be used in assessing those applications. It was extremely helpful for me to learn more about his ideas in this area. It also was quite helpful that Professor Persens participated in most of the meetings I had with the 2006 UWC applicants for the UM/UWC academic exchange program.

Finally, I was involved last year in brainstorming with members of the UWC law faculty about the creation of a new center at UWC that would focus on dispute resolution, conflict prevention, and peace-building. Over the course of the past year, I worked with Professor Darcy du Toit of the law faculty and others at UWC on finalizing the plans for this new center. Happily, our work culminated in the attached proposal which was approved in August by the UWC Faculty Senate Academic Planning Committee and by the law faculty. Once this new center is named, fund raising will commence. The UWC center will serve as a think tank where scholars from UWC, Missouri and elsewhere can work collaboratively to address local, national and regional problems. It is my belief that the center has enormous potential for UWC, for South Africa and for other countries in Africa.

2006 UM/UWC Academic Exchange Program Plans

As Professor Persens was in Columbia in late July, he brought the UM 2006 faculty exchange proposals to me. He and I reviewed the following proposals:

**UM-Columbia**
- William Lamberson – Division of Animal Sciences
- Leszek Vincent – Division of Plant Sciences, College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Barton Wechsler – Truman School of Public Affairs

**UM-Kansas City**
- Marjorie Fonza - School of Nursing
- Shannon Jackson – Sociology/Criminal Justice & Criminology

**UM-St. Louis**
- Carl Hoagland – College of Education, E. Desmond Lee Technology & Learning Center
- E. Paulette Isaac-Savage/John Henschke - Division of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
- Carole Murphy – Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
- Nancy Shields – Sociology
- Donna Taliaferro – Barnes College of Nursing

Professor Persens provided me the 2006 faculty exchange applications from the following UWC faculty members:

- Heike Becker – Anthropology & Sociology
- Reginald Domony – Earth Sciences
- Keith Gottschalk – Political Studies
- Marion Keim Lees – Institute for Social Development
- Anita Maurtin-Cairncross – Office of Staff Development
During my visit, I met with each of the 2006 UWC applicants. I also met with Hester Julie, but did not receive an application from her at that point. We recently have received her application. Professor Persens joined me during most of those meetings. I shared my observations of the relevant strengths of each application at the UMSAEP Committee meeting on September 12.

**2005 Student Exchange Program**

I had several conversations with David Middendorf, a UM-Rolla student who was a 2005 Mitchell Scholar. When I arrived, Janine Paulsen, Professor Persens' administrative assistant, was trying to locate David. She indicated that people from Rolla were also trying to contact David. I managed to track David down and persuade him to come to UWC to meet with me. I urged him to see Janine to get his schedule arranged, participate in orientation, and work with Rolla to get his course situation straightened out. David did not follow through as I suggested.

Professor Persens and I had lunch with David on August 17 to try to determine why things were not working out for him. He identified communication problems with his advisor at Rolla and with UWC as the reason he was enrolled in only one UWC course. To Professor Persens and me, it appeared that a significant part of any communication problems are attributable to Mr. Middendorf. Nonetheless, I think it would be useful to explore ways to increase the likelihood that future student exchanges will be more successful.

I also met on several occasions with Gabila Fohtung, a UWC PhD student in economics, who received an award to study at UM-Columbia. I attempted to answer the many questions he had about studying and living in Columbia. Gabila was very appreciative of Jim McCartney's assistance in arranging the details of his exchange.

**The International Center for Indigenous Phytotherapy Studies (TICIPS)**

The status of TICIPS was a frequent topic of discussion with many people at UWC, from Vice-Chancellor Brian O’Connell to other UWC faculty members interested in finding a way to get involved in this project. Professor Persens and I met with Drs. Bill Folk and Quinton Johnson, the project directors from UM and UWC, to discuss TICIPS. Both were optimistic that they would hear in September whether they would receive NIH funding. They were optimistic that funding would be granted if they slashed their budget by 25%. As I was finalizing this report, I learned that TICIPS will be funded in the amount of $3,814,852. This is a major accomplishment for the UM/UWC partnership.

We also spoke about Dr. Folk’s work on a project to genetically modify sorghum. This multimillion dollar project funded by Bill Gates has the potential to be an important step forward in increasing the nutritional value of sorghum. Dr. Folk and his fellow scientists are very concerned that they will be able to push this program forward given expected opposition. He expressed a need for consultants to help manage the expected conflict, and we discussed the possible role the new UWC center might play. I agreed to keep
him apprised of the progress of this center and he was going to alert his colleagues at the African Bioengineered Sorghum Project.

Similarly, Professor Persens and I had a lengthy conversation with Dean Ratie Mpofu, Dean of Community and Health Sciences at UWC. She is very interested in community building in rural areas and figuring out ways to address the problems of the rural poor, such as preventing the spread of AIDS and promoting good health. We had talked about TICIPS and the reasons why health consumers might choose to rely on traditional healers instead of doctors. She was interested not only in TICIPS, but in working with UM researchers like Kay Libbus and Kevin Everett on ways to promote good health by educating South African youth to the dangers of AIDS, drugs and smoking.

**UWC Administrators**

Since I am new to my position, I met with various administrators to introduce myself and learn more about UWC operations. I met with Dr. Ingrid Miller, UWC Registrar; Manie Regal, UWC Director of Finance; Ms. Nkosazana Tengimfene, Director of Development and Public Affairs; Professor Renfrew Christie, Dean of Research; Professor Derek Keats, Director of Information and Communication Services; and Professor Stan Ridge, Acting Vice Rector of Academic Affairs. Finally, I had two meetings with Vice-Chancellor O’Connell. All of the administrators praised the partnership with UM and expressed the importance of the relationship between our two universities. Everyone spoke of their willingness to do whatever they could to help promote faculty and student exchanges or to assist any of the joint projects the linkage has generated.

My conversation with Brian O’Connell was particularly significant. He spoke glowingly of the positive state of the UM/UWC partnership and his vision of the future. He is concerned about the South African government’s push to see improvement in UWC’s research outputs, and to raise academic standards. He emphasized the need to improve teaching quality, especially in large classes. Finally, he stressed that UWC should continue to play a critical role in preparing its students to be agents of social change. He hoped that next September, we would be able to plan some celebration to mark the 20-year partnership between our two universities.

**UWC Senate International Relations Committee**

I met with this committee on August 12, 2005, to discuss the 2005 projects, the 2006 faculty exchange applicants and other ongoing UWC/UM projects, including TICIPS, the new UWC Dispute Resolution Center and the ALO projects. Both Professor Persens and I spoke about the importance of this partnership and the significance of the collaborative projects generated by the UM/UWC linkage. Professor Persens highlighted some of the challenges facing UWC, including the need to increase its research outputs, to add a number of successful graduate students and to improve academic performance. He cited a need for programs that promoted innovative teaching at UWC.

The committee also discussed the need to establish more links between UWC scientists and those at UM. The committee encouraged Professor Persens and me to reach out to some of the departments that have not actively participated in the exchanges.
Concerns were raised about funding dean-to-dean exchanges as opposed to specific faculty projects. Finally, the committee asked about ways to increase student exchanges and expressed concern about recent unsuccessful student experiences.

Meetings with Deans and Heads of Centres, Institutes, Schools and Units

I had several group sessions, as well as individual meetings with deans and other heads of various UWC entities. One group meeting included Professor John Bardill, Director of the School of Government; Professor Haus Myburgh, Director of the School of Pharmacy; Professor Pieter Le Roux, Director of the Institute for Social Development; Professor Beverley Thaver, Acting Director of The Centre for the Study of Higher Education; Ms. Shahnaz Suffla, Director of Student Counseling; and Ms. Charmaine Klein, Director of the Environmental Education and Research Unit. Each described their department, institute or centre and their aspirations for their unit. They also discussed their involvement with UM and the areas in which they would like to see future collaborations with UM partners.

For example, Dr. Myburgh of pharmacy spoke of the challenge his school faced to develop standards for natural medicine. He was particularly interested in finding out if anyone from any of the Missouri campuses would like to collaborate on such a project. Professor Le Roux spoke of his interest in social welfare policies, specifically in the concept of a negative income tax. Several spoke of the need to create a graduate school or centre that would promote scholarships and help nurture young scholars.

I also had a series of individual meetings with department chairs or deans like Professor Chris Tapscott, Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences; George Fredericks of the Faculty of Arts; Charlyn Dyers, Director of the Illwimi Centre; Professor Dirk Meerkotter, Dean of Education; Professor Jan van Bever Donker, Dean of the Science Faculty; Professor Najma Moosa of Law Faculty; and Professor Yusuf Osman, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry. Each of the meetings allowed me the opportunity to begin to build a personal relationship and discuss the UM/UWC partnership in some depth. Some, such as Dean Tapscott of Economic and Management Sciences, had specific needs they wanted to discuss. Dean Tapscott was very interested in locating some expert at UM who would be willing to help him analyze their admission procedures. The university is under considerable pressure to raise standards and academic performance and to do so without negatively impacting African students who, in Dean Tapscott’s view, too often arrive with substandard credentials and inadequate preparation. He would like to come up with admission standards that would be fair, that would not disadvantage African students, but that would enable UWC to identify prospective students from disadvantaged backgrounds who will actually succeed. He also was one of a number of UWC faculty who spoke of the need to recruit more African faculty members.

Professor Osman met with me because Professor Moola, Dean of the School of Dentistry was in the hospital. Professor Osman was very anxious to have more UM-Kansas City faculty come to UWC. Not only do they need assistance in training specialists, but Osman believes that their community-based clinical programs offer wonderful opportunities for UMKC faculty and students. He would be delighted if the
UMKC dental school would consider a program for UMKC dental students similar to the MU Law Study Abroad Program.

2005 UM/UWC Academic Exchange Program Review

While I was at UWC, I met with several UM and UWC faculty members who had received awards in 2005. Professor Craig Bosch of the UWC law faculty had traveled to Columbia in April. He reported that he had benefited greatly from his experience and had shared information with his law colleagues at UWC. Professor Bosch also taught in the MU Study Abroad Program that UMC runs in conjunction with the UWC law faculty. That program went extremely well again this summer with 18 American and 17 UWC students participating.

I met with Professor Margie Sable who was working with the UWC Social Work Department. In addition, Professor Sable introduced me to Dr. Mitchell Besser who runs The Mothers Program, an innovative program involving women who have HIV-AIDS. Professor Sable was very enthusiastic about her work with UWC and the benefits of the linkage exchange.

Finally, I had several meetings with Dr. Vicki Curby. Curby was somewhat disappointed with her most recent visit. She was at UWC this spring and was returning to do some follow-up work including a workshop. Unfortunately, her host Lorna Holtman was in the U.S. when Curby arrived, and it appears that there was miscommunication between Curby and Holtman about the timing and purpose of this second visit. Although, it can be extremely difficult to coordinate schedules to maximize the benefits of a visit for both the host and the visitor, the failure to do so does adversely affect the success of a visit.

Dispute Resolution Centre

As I have already noted, I have been involved in conversations for several years with Dean Moosa, Darcy du Toit, Craig Bosch and others in the UWC law faculty about establishing a center at UWC to study conflict and dispute resolution. Two years ago, Dean Larry Dessem, former Dean Tim Heinsz and Jim Levin of the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law went to UWC to teach a course on dispute resolution and have further discussion about the creation of a center at UWC. This past year, momentum for such a center built as Professor Darcy du Toit got actively involved in preparing a specific proposal for the center. Aided by Bonnie Berkowitz who was hired by the law faculty to work on this project, Professor du Toit and Marion Keim Lees worked on a proposal that was presented to the UWC Faculty Senate Academic Planning Committee this August. Following approval by that committee and by the law faculty, a committee consisting of Professors John Bardill, Jan Persens, Rod Uphoff, Marion Keim Lees, Darcy du Toit, Julia Sloth-Nielsen, Ms. Bonnie Berkowitz and Mr. Larry Popkas was formed to draft a constitution and begin fund-raising. We had several group meetings, including one with Nkosazana Tengimfene to strategize about fund-raising. Additionally, I met with Professor du Toit on several other occasions to work on the Center constitution and discuss potential projects for the Center once it was operationalized.
ALO Project

I met with Professor Persens and with Dr. Anita Maudt-Cairncross to discuss the ALO Leadership Project. She was very enthusiastic about the progress that has been made on the Leadership Project. She thought the leadership workshop was a huge success and she noted that the participants had been meeting on a monthly basis since the workshop. Both Professor Persens and Dr. Maudt-Cairncross spoke of steady progress in the ALO nursing project, as well. They have observed a much better spirit in the nursing school, which Professor Persens attributed in large part to the partnership with the University of Missouri.

I also discussed the ALO nursing project with Professor Thembi Khanyile, head of the UWC School of Nursing and with Professor Persens. Professor Khanyile discussed her recent visit to Columbia and the upcoming visits of Professor Kay Libbus, Thad Wilson and Professor Dick Madsen to UWC. She described the goals she is working on and her desire to work with Professor Libbus to develop a five-year plan for the nursing school.

I was warmly received by everyone at UWC. Unquestionably, this is a marvelous partnership that has produced a host of rewarding exchanges. I particularly want to thank Professor Jan Persens who went out of his way to make me very welcome. His leadership and tireless work on behalf of this partnership are critical to the success of the UM/UWC linkage. I appreciate all of his assistance.