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The International Relations Office  
University of the Western Cape

**Report : Pradeep Brijlal (Visit to UMSL)**

This report is based on my visit to University of Missouri, Saint Louis for the period 26 November 2010 to 10 December 2010. The format of this report is based on the overall guidelines for reporting.

The objective of the visit was to develop my questionnaire and finalize the variables that intend to measure the outcomes. I had numerous consultations with my advisor Prof. Hung Gay Fung. During our meetings we finalized certain aspects of the questionnaire in order to do the analysis as per the statistical requirement. I attribute the success of my visit to the numerous meetings with Prof. Fung. The two weeks stay was sufficient to accomplish my objectives. I also had the opportunity to retrieve some important articles from the library which covered certain aspects of my thesis and questionnaire. I was also privileged to meet with Mr Alan Hauf, from Business Administration Department, who gave me insight on small businesses in the Missouri area. The meetings with my advisor were beneficial and it gave me more confidence in administering my questionnaire. Prof. Fung is also prepared to advise on my analysis once my data has been captured. It is envisioned that Prof. Fung and I may write a paper based on captured data from certain aspects of my questionnaire.

The main purpose of my visit was to sought expert advice from Prof. Fung, from a student point of view. This was beneficial as we shared some challenges experienced on certain aspects on the type of data that could be accessible in administering the questionnaire. This may lead to future exchange from a research collaboration point of view and can be beneficial for both the institutions. It is important for the exchange programme to continue as the collaboration between UM/UWC will help to strengthen these institutions in the global research arena, which will add positively to the research community.

The staff at the international office at UMSL was very accommodating and helpful. It would have been more beneficial if I was linked or introduced to more staff in the field of Finance and Business Administration. I had to do my own enquiries, which took up some time. The planning and organizing by UWC was commendable and I cannot see any areas that may be needed to be improved.

I wish to thank Prof. Uphoff, the staff that interacted with me at UMSL and Prof. Persens and his staff at UWC who made my visit possible. My visit to UMSL was beneficial and I look forward to administering my questionnaire and interacting with Prof. Fung in the future.

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