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6 July 2012

Ms Hilda Andrews
International Relations Office
University of the Western Cape

Dear Ms Andrews

Re: Report on UWC-UM Exchange Programme Visit: May 31 - June 15, 2012

We are pleased to submit this report on our recent visit to University of Missouri, St Louis and Columbia Campuses:

St Louis Campus: May 31- June 8, 2012

The first week of our visit was at St Louis Campus of UM. Dr Matthew Taylor, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology hosted us. Our visit focused on extending the research study that we had collaborated with Dr Taylor in 2010 entitled, 'Racial and ethnic identity: A comparative study of South Africa and the USA'. Our collaboration with Dr Taylor has produced a paper that was presented at the International Conference on Diversity in Organisations, Communities, and Nations held in Cape Town.

The meeting with Dr Taylor sought to extend the research study to include new aspects to our initial investigation of racial and ethnic identity. We discussed ways to conceptualise the study, in terms of study aims and objectives, operationalisation of key concepts, and identification of suitable instruments to collect the data.

Our discussions were very productive and resulted in common understanding of the methodology needed to take the project forward. We plan to collect data in the next couple of months and write up research findings for publication.

Columbia Campus Visit: June 11 - 15, 2012

In Columbia, our main host was Dr Kenneth Sheldon, an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology. Dr Sheldon had in the previous year invited us to collaborate on a research

project focusing on self-determination theory. Most of the studies done in this area have been limited to samples drawn from Western populations. Accordingly, the collaboration was seen as providing an opportunity to extend research findings to South African samples.

Our meetings with Dr Sheldon focused on finalizing a research proposal designed to test Self-Determination Theory by comparing the basic psychological needs of different groups in the Western Cape in terms of gender, socio-economic status, and educational levels. We spent a couple of days considering specific aspects of the study including the research methodology, selection of research participants, and identifying appropriate research tools. We managed to finalise all key aspects of the study. We plan to conduct the study in the next few months and submit our research findings to appropriate academic journals.

Our final meeting was with Dr Kevin Everett, an Associate Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine. Our meeting with Dr Everett was a courtesy call to exchange ideas about possible follow-up studies regarding our previous collaboration about smoking behavior and risk perception.

CONCLUSION

Our meetings with colleagues in Missouri went very well. We were well received by our colleagues and the meetings could not have been more productive. We are busy with plans to start the data collection on the two projects in the next few months. Our sincere thanks to both the University of the Western Cape and University of Missouri for making it possible for us to be part of such a great exchange programme.

Sincerely,

K. Mwaba

N. Roman

Prof K Mwaba

Dr N Roman