



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between Athens State University-Athens, Alabama USA
and Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University-Karnataka, India
and Karnataka State Higher Education Council

I. GENERAL

A. Parties

This Memorandum of Understanding is between:

1. Athens State University (ATSU), with the address of 300 North Beaty Street, Athens, Alabama 38401 USA.
2. Karnataka State Higher Education Council, with the address of No.30, Prasannakumara Block, Y Ramachandra Road, Ghandhinagara, Bengaluru – 560009, India.
3. Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University (VSKU), with the address of Kuvempu Nagar, Ballari, Karnataka, 583105, India.

The three institutions shall be referred to collectively as the "Participating Institutional Members" in this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU").

B. Purpose of the MOU

1. To develop research and academic programs in the areas of Commerce and Management, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Education.
2. To develop a cooperative program of international exchange and promote cooperation in faculty/staff research, education, and faculty/staff and student exchange
3. To develop, organize and host joint academic symposia, conferences, workshops and meetings.

4. To facilitate and to enhance all aspects of noted cooperation between the parties of the MOU, including dual degree and 3 + 2 pathways to complete a graduate degree.
5. To establish the formal understanding of the scope of operations between the Participating Institutions and to commit in writing the intent and mutual assent of the Participating Institutions to engage in the following activities, subject to any written amendments or additions as necessary to further the purpose of this MOU.

PROVIDED THAT this MOU shall be carried out subject to the availability of funds of either party and subject to the approval of the Presidents/Heads of the Participating Institutions.

C. Modes of Collaboration

The Participating Institutions shall endeavor to promote collaboration through a broad range of strategies enhancing women participation in STEAM education, which in the initial stages of this cooperation shall include –

1. Having exclusive webinars, workshops & discussion meetings on the physical and virtual platforms for Teaching-Learning protocols.
2. Develop joint training programs for teachers across the globe.
3. Student exchange of selected students.
4. Faculty exchange of selected teachers in several subjects in Commerce and Management, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Education for student learning in applied subjects and languages.
5. Faculty exchange of teacher trainers in Pedagogy, Human Resources, etc.
6. Develop methods to apply contemporary technology for teacher training, assessment and accreditation.
7. Joint English and Indian language (as a foreign language) courses for students and teachers.

D. Definitions

1. For purposes of this MOU, the party sending students or faculty shall be referred to as the "Home Institution."
2. For purposes of this MOU, the party receiving students or faculty shall be referred to as the "Host Institution."

II. TERMS OF THE MOU

A. Areas of Initial Concentration

Participating Institutions based on a definition of shared institutional priorities for teaching, program development and research agree to implement collaborations of:

1. Faculty Exchanges
2. Student Exchanges
3. Dual Degree Programs (as allowed by governing and accrediting bodies)

4. 3 + 2 Pathways from Undergraduate to Graduate degree
5. Joint Teacher Training programs
6. Lectures and Workshops (Physical and/or Virtual).
7. Collaborative research programs

Additional areas of concentration may be added with the mutual consent of the Presidents/Heads of both Participating Institutions.

Subsequent documents are intended to add definition to programs within areas of mutual concentration.

B. Activities in Support of Collaboration

The Participating Institutions recognize the importance of certain ancillary activities in support of these areas of collaboration. Principal among these shall be, when appropriate:

1. The regular exchange of relevant publications and information generated by the parties to the MOU.
2. Regular communication concerning the technologies necessary to enable and enhance the substantive areas of collaboration referred to in Section II.

C. Partnership Exchange

Exchanges of faculty, students and technical specialists generally shall be conducted under the following guidelines:

1. The Participating Institutions shall for duration to be determined on a case-by case basis and after mutual agreement invite students and faculty for teaching and/or research visits.
2. If and insofar as there are sufficient funds for these specific purposes at the disposal of the Participating Institutions.
3. To the extent feasible, "Host Institution" is expected to provide accommodations, meals and in-country transportation for Visiting Faculty, Staff and Program Directors
4. The Participating Institutions shall undertake good faith efforts to raise funds from outside sources for the exchange of lecturers and/or researchers, if needed.
5. The Participating Institutions shall inform one another regularly about the curricular programs offered by each, and especially about research seminars, colloquia, conferences, and symposia organized by each.
6. Each exchange participant to the Host Institution must obtain and submit written proof of medical insurance coverage during the exchange period as required by the Host Institution's governing applicable laws. It is understood that the Host Institution accepts

no responsibility or liability for providing health care services or health care insurance for visiting, scholars and faculty.

7. Exchange faculty shall be responsible for obtaining any necessary documents and otherwise complying with all immigration laws and regulations of the country of the Host Institution. The Host Institution shall cooperate in such efforts but shall not have any responsibility to assure the granting of any documents, permits or approvals.
8. Exchange faculty shall follow the policies and procedures of the Host Institution. Any applicable policies and procedures of the Host Institution shall be provided to each exchange faculty member in writing and explained to the individual faculty member prior to arrival at the Host Institution. Exchange faculty shall acknowledge receipt and understanding of those policies and procedures in writing.
9. Participation in distance education that allows simultaneous instruction at both institutions and technologically supported delivery of instruction from one institution to the other will be supported to the extent possible by the Participating Institutions.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

A. Elaboration of this MOU

1. It is the intent of the Participating Institutions that general provisions of this MOU be translated into specific programs of activity as expeditiously as financing and other institutional capabilities permit.
2. Such programs shall be set forth in implementing memoranda approved in writing by the designated operational officers of both institutions.
3. No implementing memorandum shall amend or contradict the provisions of this MOU.
4. Nothing in the initial version of this MOU shall be interpreted as constraining the development of future programs not mentioned in this document.
5. The parties agree to jointly define the objectives and structure of the academic partnership as including, but not limited to:
 - Targeting focus areas for collaboration, promoting collaboration in the areas identified, and encouraging strategic partnerships between Athens State University and Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University in the targeted endeavors;
 - Developing an enabling environment for the success of collaborations including facilitating operational teams at both ends for liaison and progress monitoring, hosting periodic knowledge exchange programs;
 - Identifying and facilitating focus areas for collaborative research of mutual interest between the parties;
 - Encouraging the development of curricular programs leading to better employability;

- Facilitating the exchange of information about Athens State University and Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University to each institutions students;
- Encouraging faculty and student exchanges for research, sabbaticals, summer camps, study abroad, internships, and related academic activities;
- Enabling professional development training for educators and administrators, including leadership development; and
- Promoting initiatives that improve diversity, inter-cultural awareness, and understanding within the space of higher education.

B. Responsible Administrative Personnel

The Participating Institutions shall be represented by informal negotiation or renegotiation of this MOU by the presidents/heads of the Participating Institutions or their designated representatives.

The designated operational units of the parties, for the purposes of developing and implementing the terms of this MOU, are:

For Athens State University: Dr. Catherine Wehlburg, Provost catherine.wehlburg@athens.edu

For Karnataka State Higher Education Council: Dr.Thandava Gowda, Administrative Officer tntgowda@kshec.ac.in

For Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University: Dr. G.P. Dinesh, Professor in Management Studies, gurrumdinesh@vskub.ac.in

Either party may change its designated operational officer by written notice from the Participating Institution's President/Head.

C. Other Provisions

1. This MOU is written in the English language.
2. Nothing in this MOU shall create binding obligations that may not be over ridden by written agreement in the form of an amendment with the same formality as this MOU.
3. Karnataka State Higher Education Council shall participate in planning and reviewing of activities and projects as part of this MOU
4. This MOU will expire after the duration of three years from the date of all required signatures, with the ability to renew the MOU for consequent periods enduring for up to five years. The terms of the MOU may be re-examined and the program adjusted, as deemed necessary, based on a mutually agreed to assessment of the program by the appropriate Presidents/Heads of the Participating Institutions in writing.
5. This MOU may be terminated by any of the parties to the MOU on prior written notice of 90 days before the end of the respective academic years. Any current participant in

the programs established by this MOU shall, however, in any case retain their current status until the end of the academic year in which the termination of the MOU occurs.

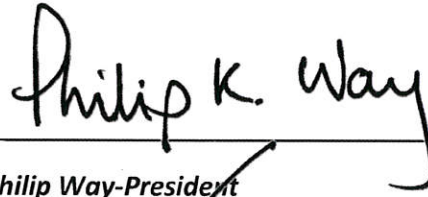
By signing this Letter of Intent and Memorandum of Understanding, the signatories will actively support and promote the aforementioned described Higher Education Partnership that serve mutual interests. The partnership shall commence upon signing and can be terminated at will as described above.

Signed:



Siddu P. Algur - Vice Chancellor

Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University



Philip Way-President

Athens State University



Gopalkrishna Joshi,

Executive Director-Karnataka State Higher Education Council