

## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA)

between

**the University of Puerto Rico/Mayagüez  
Puerto Rico**

and

**The Pennsylvania State University  
of the United States of America**

The Pennsylvania State University (also referred to as "Penn State"), represented by its President through the Dean, Dr. Beverly Lindsay, University Office of International Programs, and its Board of Trustees through the Assistant Treasurer, Mr. Joseph Doncsecz, and The University of Puerto Rico/Mayagüez (also referred to as "UPR/Mayagüez"), represented by its Acting Chancellor, Professor Pablo Rodríguez, have agreed to the following:

### Article 1:

That this MOA is intended to create academic relationships that benefit all parties involved and diversifying each institution's student and faculty populations and enriching academic experience at their institution.

### Article 2:

The following initiatives will receive the active cooperation of the Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences at UPR/Mayagüez; the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education, the Office of the Provost for Educational Equity, and the Office of Multicultural Student Services at Penn State:

- a. Academic opportunities for graduate students in the UPR/Mayagüez Master of Arts in English Education (NAEE) Program;
- b. Summer faculty exchange program;
- c. Research opportunities for faculty and graduate students.

Academic opportunities for graduate students in the UPR/Mayagüez MAEE Program:

- a. The Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education, at The Pennsylvania State University, will take one or two graduate students from UPR/Mayagüez, English Department's Master of Arts in English Education Program into its doctoral program per year starting in the academic year 2002-03.
  1. The UPR/Mayagüez MAEE graduate students must:
    - a) undergo the established process for admissions into the Curriculum and Instruction doctoral programs.
    - b) be nominated by the English Department Chairperson, UPR/Mayagüez.

2. Upon admission into the Curriculum and Instruction doctoral program of choice, the students will receive a teaching assistantship at the regular graduate assistant grade 9 level which covers all tuition for the academic year plus the following summer and a stipend.
  3. The assistantships will be renewable up to three years as long as the students make academic progress and receive satisfactory official evaluations of their performance as teaching assistants.
  4. The Penn State Curriculum and Instruction assistantships will involve teaching two sections of a course (or the equivalent) per semester and the students must take up to 10 credits of coursework during that semester. In the summer, there is no teaching required and the university covers the tuition for up to 10 credits.
- b. To ensure eligibility for assistantships, the English Department at UPR/Mayagüez will certify that the nominated candidates have:
1. the MAEE degree completed or have completed all except the thesis at the time of enrollment at Penn State.
  2. at least two years' experience at the elementary, secondary, or college levels.
- c. The Department of Curriculum and Instruction will place the student in:
1. the elementary LL ED block, the secondary LL ED courses, or the college basic skills courses, the Second Language program or, possibly, the Bilingual Program. It is also possible that joint work could be undertaken with the Linguistics program in the College of the Liberal Arts at Penn State.
  2. Curriculum and Instruction will initially provide a temporary academic advisor for each student, with the understanding that the student could change advisors once he or she becomes more familiar with the department and the college.
- d. The Department of Curriculum and Instruction will assist the student in locating housing. The students would be solely responsible for the payment of their rent and utilities while at Penn State University.
- e. Students must provide for their own airfare. Neither Penn State or UPR/Mayagüez will provide air travel fare for participating students.
- f. The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs will offer a strong support system for the UPR/Mayagüez students to assist in acclimating them to the region and the university.

### Article 3:

#### Summer Faculty Exchange Program:

- a. One faculty member from each department will propose and teach a six-week course during the summer session beginning Summer 2003. Each participating faculty member would be paid the regular university rate by his or her home institution. The host institution will reimburse the faculty member's home institution for the actual salary paid for teaching the course. The course will only be offered if acceptable student enrollment occurs.
- b. Proposals for courses need to be submitted and accepted by the host institution six months prior to the beginning of the summer session.
- c. If travel assistance were needed, each host institution would provide that also for their faculty.

#### Article 4:

##### Summer Research Opportunities for Faculty and Graduate Students

- a. Given adequate notice, Penn State Curriculum and Instruction graduate students and faculty can conduct research at the UPR/Mayagüez campus. Interested investigators will request the English Department Chair with at least six months advance notice prior to actual starting data for research coordination between the investigator(s) and participating UPR/Mayagüez English Department faculty. The UPR/Mayagüez English Department will aid and facilitate PSU researcher requests and arrange for modest office space and housing during the limited duration of the study. Penn State University will grant equal opportunities in addition to Library privileges and housing for a limited period during the summers to UPR/Mayagüez graduate students and faculty.

#### Article 5:

##### General Dispositions

- a. This memorandum of understanding is a declaration of intention aiming to promote interactions in matters of collaborative research and graduate education expected to increase the well-being of both the MAEE Program at UPR/Mayagüez and the Graduate Curriculum and Instruction Program at Penn State. Nothing agreed upon in here will affect the rights of both parties to enter similar agreements with other institutions.
- b. The agreement may be revised and subsequently signed by the authorities of both universities at any time with the written consent of both parties.
- c. This is the entire understanding between the English Department of UPR/Mayagüez and the Curriculum and Instruction Department at Penn State as sponsors of this memorandum of understanding. The understanding may be revised or canceled by mutual agreement of the sponsors.

#### Article 6:

All specific projects to which this MOA may lead will be subject to the joint and periodic evaluation by the appropriate authorities of both universities. This MOA will be jointly reviewed and evaluated after three years from the date of signing.

#### Article 7:

This MOA will become effective on the date of signing for a period of five years and can be renewed by mutual consent. Both institutions have the right to initiate a termination of this linkage with at least six months written notice.

#### Article 8:

Both institutions are committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. Both institutions do not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Penn State and UPR/Mayagüez shall abide by these principles in the administration of this MOA and neither institution shall impose criteria for the exchange of scholars or students which would violate the principles of non-discrimination.

The Pennsylvania State University

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