

Memorandum of Understanding
between
University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, Puerto Rico
Mayagüez, Puerto Rico
and
Western Connecticut State University
of the Connecticut State University System (CSU),
Danbury, Connecticut

Deeply committed to a free exchange of ideas, and keenly aware of the important role being played by institutions of higher education toward the progress, peace, and well-being of humankind through academic and cultural exchange, the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (UPRM), and Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), affirm and agree to join together in the areas of education, research, and training.

This agreement has, as its collective purpose, the strengthening of the respective institutions in carrying out their individual ideals and purposes. It is aimed at close academic cooperation between the institutions in ways that will aid their intellectual, material, and physical growth. The intention is that this agreement will provide flexibility and allow for adjustments on a yearly basis or as necessary. As such, any further collaboration or modification regarding this MOU will be formalized in separate agreements and will be signed by the chief executive officers of both institutions.

The primary objective of this MOU is to facilitate cooperation in the field of primary and secondary education instruction and training, with the mutual goal of enhancing the quality of each institutions respective programs. Collaboration may assume the forms of, but is not limited to, jointly offered professional development programs both in Puerto Rico and in Connecticut, faculty, research and administrative personnel exchanges, student teacher exchanges and jointly sponsored symposia and conferences.

I. Exchange of Faculty/Research/Administration

Each institution shall encourage exchange of faculty and administration supported by the terms described below. Funds will be from international scholars programs and granting foundations as might be available.

- A. Each institution shall provide, as appropriate, the names of instructional and research personnel available for exchange professorships.
- B. Faculty members and administrators of each institution shall be designated to make professional visits to exchange partners' campuses for familiarization with their counterparts and for possible development of mutually beneficial programs.
- C. Beyond traditional faculty exchange, both institutions will also collaborate on the exchange of scholars for lectures, seminars, workshops, talks, and conferences and other special short-term academic programs.

II. Cooperative Efforts in Joint Academic Programs

At a future date, each institution may look into the possibility of undertaking joint academic programs utilizing their faculty members and facilities, drawing upon the strength of their respective experiences in overseas programs.

III. Coordination of Agreement

The coordination and implementation of this agreement will be the responsibility of the Provost's Office of WCSU and the Dean of Academic Affairs at UPRM.

These coordinators shall assist each institution and internal departments to plan and arrange exchange of academic staff, information, student exchanges, and student support services (e.g., curriculum, housing, financial arrangements, welfare, and any general problems), and be the primary contact for each institution on such issues.

IV. Agreement

This agreement will continue for a five year period of time from the date of signature. Any party may terminate this agreement by providing a six-month (6) written notice. However, should the agreement terminate prior to the completion of an academic semester, all students enrolled at that time may continue their educational experience until it would have been concluded absent the termination. All specific exchanges, be they personnel, research, or students will be under formal separate agreement executed by the parties to be bound.

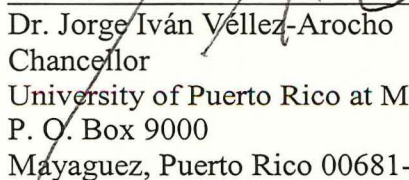
Each institution will receive one copy of this MOU in English. For conflicting interpretations of text, each institution will strive to reach a mutually agreed upon interpretation that meets the interests and needs of both institutions.

This agreement shall not prevent either institution from establishing similar relations with any other institutions in the same or other country.

All activities organized pursuant to the terms and conditions of this agreement will be performed without any discrimination to potential participants on the basis of age, race, national or social origin, sex, or religion.

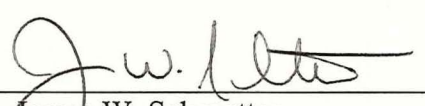
This agreement does not require from the Institutions any economical obligation at this time. However, if any activity planned pursuant to this agreement requires such obligation, it should be negotiated independently and any appropriations or distributions should be made in proportion to the responsibilities assumed by each party.

The provisions set forth in this agreement are intended to provide overall guidelines for this exchange program. These provisions may be adjusted to accommodate special situations or circumstances as long as these adjustments meet the approval of the chief executive officers and/or boards of their institutions.



Dr. Jorge Iván Véllez-Arocho
Chancellor
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P. O. Box 9000
Mayaguez, Puerto Rico 00681-9000

December 5th 2006
Date of Signature



Dr. James W. Schmotter
President
Western Connecticut State University
181 White Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810

5 December 2006
Date of Signature