

**murray
state
university**

Matt Klein

616
592-3644

Betty-

8/1/88

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Did you receive this? I expect you had better respond to the draft regarding the "consortium". Let me know your thinking on this matter.

Betty

interoffice communication

subject: Minutes of Meeting and First Draft of Consortium Design

date: July 25, 1988

to: Participants in Kentucky Meeting on a U.S./Belize Higher Education Consortium

from: Tracy Harrington, Director *CH*
Center for International Programs

Enclosed are a summary of the outcomes of our meeting and a first draft of what might become a constituting document for the formation of a consortium. Please review the draft document for revisions, additions, deletions, etc. If you can return the draft to me with your suggestions by August 14, I will incorporate changes in a second draft and return this second draft to you by early September.

If you have extensive comments or questions, please give me a call at (502) 762-4411.

I am also enclosing a list of the names, titles, and addresses of those attending the meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BELIZE



University Drive, P.O. Box 990, Belize City, Belize, Central America
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NEW DIRECTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN BELIZE

July 14, 1988

Aspiration towards higher education in Belize coincides in its genesis with aspiration towards nationhood and political independence from England. The movement to end British colonialism in Belize was born in the late 1940's and was firmly established as an irresistible and irreversible force in the early 1950's. It was in 1952 that St. John's College (SJC), a Jesuit high school for boys, received from the newly representative government a grant of land about a mile north of the then city limits, a site named after Rafael Landivar, a Central American Jesuit missionary and scholar.

In that year, 1952, SJC established Belize's first junior college, called (in the British tradition) a "sixth form". Its programs, as with other sixth forms in the British Caribbean, led to the Advanced Level General Certificate of Education (GCE) of the University of Cambridge.

Not long after, the Belize Technical College, a government institution, began entering students for that examination also, but with an emphasis on the natural sciences, where SJC's emphasis was then on the Arts. Post-Secondary education was on its way in Belize.

On August 9th, 1966, the Government officially approved the award of associate degrees by our sixth forms; thus Belize students could enter U.S. universities as transfer students going on to the third year of a Baccalaureate degree program. It should be remembered that advanced passes in the GCE is the general entry requirement in Commonwealth universities such as the University of the West Indies (UWI), of which Belize was a foundation territory and to which it still contributes.

The 1950's also saw the establishment of post-secondary diploma courses in the fields of education (the Belize Teachers College), agriculture (the Belize School - later College of Agriculture), technology (the Belize Technical College), and nursing (the Bliss School of Nursing). The Belize College of Arts Science and Technology (BELCAST) was subsequently established by government to coordinate the activities of all these institutions and to move as quickly as possible towards the status of a full degree-granting university for Belize.

Throughout this period (from 1950 to the 1970's), there had been vague promises or indications that the intention was to develop the Landivar campus to become Belize's first university. However, during its last term of office before its defeat in the general elections of 1984, the government of the People's United Party (PUP) announced its intention of establishing the new university that was to grow out of BELCAST, at Belmopan, the new capital built after the very destructive hurricane of 1961.

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After winning the 1984 general elections, the new party in power, the United Democratic Party (UDP) made a number of important decisions in the field of higher education. Some of these decisions were:

1. It confirmed the previous government's commitment to an early establishment of a Belizean university.
2. It restored the autonomy of the junior colleges and other institutions that had made up BELCAST.
3. It established two new junior colleges, in the north at Corosal and in the south at Dangriga.
4. It decided, largely on demographic grounds, that the new university campus should be in Belize City, not Belmopan.
5. In September of 1986, it established the University College of Belize (UCB) in partnership with Ferris State College (now University) of Michigan, to be, at least initially, a two-year institution admitting students with associate degrees from our junior colleges.

At the beginning of its second academic year, in September of 1987, UCB had the following enrollment:

1. 68 students in its Baccalaureate program in Business.
2. 10 students in its Medical Technology/Pharmacy program.
3. 16 students in its English as a Second Language (ESL).

On Sunday, May 29th of this year, four of our Business students made history by becoming the first Belizeans to be awarded local degrees. Almost symbolically, two were female and two male; also they represented our most important ethnic groups: Creole, Mestizo and Garifuna, the fourth being an East Indian of a family temporarily resident in Belize - in a sense our first international graduate. This cross-section underlines the concept of broad national service embracing all Belize which must be at the center of our mission.

The Medical Technology/Pharmacy programs will eventually be absorbed into a wider program of the biological sciences and chemistry.

Meanwhile, the introduction this September of a new degree program in conjunction with BTC - a bachelors in Education primarily for secondary school teachers, marks yet another milestone in our development; as does our move to our new campus for the new academic year.

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One aspect of UCB's growth which is of probably little more than nuisance value is the on-going attacks, sometimes petty, sometimes scurrilous, usually irritating, by SPEAR (Society for the Promotion of Education and Research), a Marxist umbrella organization of local intellectuals with international contacts and sources of funding, and the political opposition.

It is to be hoped that this negative attitude on the part of the opposition will not mean that, if they should regain control of government, they intend to destroy UCB and undo all the excellent and, it must certainly be added, difficult groundwork of the last two years.

A possible developmental thrust for higher education in Belize which I would like considered is to have the Teachers College become UCB's Faculty of Education; the Bliss School of Nursing become UCB's Faculty of Nursing; the Technical College become our Faculty of Technology and Applied Science; St. John's College become our Faculties of the Humanities and Social Sciences; the the new UCB campus housing Business, the Natural Sciences, the Fine Arts including a performing center, the Library, the Sports Stadium, the Museum, Administration, student dormitories and Faculty accommodation.

The proximity of these now separate institutions is almost providential; the obvious economy in capital expenditure on buildings and equipment is its great attraction for a poor country like Belize. Furthermore, this move in the direction of the previous government's BELCAST idea might well go a long way towards mollifying their so-far recalcitrant stand on UCB. And, as this year's UCB Valedictorian rightly stressed, higher education in Belize is too important to be an issue for political wrangling and endless animosity. We need to move towards national unity and more harmonious relations.

I invite the members of this consortium in discussing these proposals and all their implications for higher education in Belize, to offer their criticisms and frank opinions as to whether it would be a good and practical policy ideal for our Ministry of Education.

Dr. Colville Young, President
University College of Belize

EXPLORATORY MEETING ON ORGANIZING COOPERATIVE
EFFORTS FOR SUPPORT OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
IN BELIZE

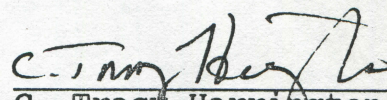
Murray State University
July 14-15, 1988

Summary of Discussions

1. Participants convened at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 14. Those attending included: Mrs. Enid McCoy, University College of Belize; Mr. Ernest Raymond, Belize Teachers' College; Dr. George Walker, UCB; Dr. Colville Young, UCB; Dr. Matthew Klein, Ferris State; Dr. Tracy Harrington, Ms. Celia Wall, and Dr. Bill Price, Murray State; Dr. Pritchard Smith, University of North Florida; Dr. Reta Hicks, Mrs. Mary Ann McCelvey, and Dr. Roger Pankratz, Western Kentucky University.
2. Dr. Colville Young presented a background paper on the development of higher education in Belize that served as a springboard for discussion. (A copy of Dr. Young's paper is attached.)
3. Mr. Raymond enumerated a range of educational needs in Belize that could serve as focal points for cooperative activities.
4. Representatives of the four U.S. institutions described the scope of their involvement in Belize and summarized the structure and organization of their international programs.
5. Throughout the meeting, there was much informal discussion of the need for a cooperative framework and the possible emphases that such a framework should have. There was general agreement on the benefits to be derived from cooperative efforts and on the need for such efforts to be based upon articulated priorities of the Belizean educational community. U.S. representatives felt strongly that a consortial organization should be responsive to, rather than directive of, educational initiatives in Belize.
6. The Thursday evening discussions served as preparatory for the Friday morning sessions, which focused on specific areas appropriate for cooperative activity and the framework for a proposed consortium.
7. In Friday's discussions, general consensus was reached on the aims that a consortium for educational development in Belize should have. There was some difference of opinion on whether the consortium's focus should be exclusively teacher education or whether it should be more broadly conceived. The conclusion was that while teacher education must be a central focus of consortium activities, the actual specification of aims should be more inclusive, in order to respond to as broad a range of emerging needs as possible.
8. Several persons present emphasized the importance of seeking outside funding support, perhaps through the AID mission in Belize, to finance organization of the consortium.

9. The group agreed on a sequence of activities that should take place in seeking to establish a consortium:
 - a. First, an initial draft would be prepared and circulated for review; comments from this review will be incorporated in a revised draft. This process will continue until a draft approved by all participants is achieved.
 - b. Once an approved draft is developed, the Belizean participants will circulate this draft to the Ministry of Education in Belize for review. Further revisions would be undertaken as necessary to secure Ministry of Education authorization and agreement.
 - c. As Ministry of Education authorization is being sought, interest of St. John's College, the Bliss School of Nursing, the Belize Technical College, and the Belize College of Agriculture will be assessed.
 - d. Once Ministry authorization is received and interest of other institutions is determined, the U.S. Agency for International Development will be approached regarding possible support for the consortium.
10. Steps a through c, above, are to be completed before mid-October. A second meeting of the group planning the consortium will be held by mid-October if possible, either at the University of North Florida or in Belize.
11. The group selected Tracy Harrington, Colville Young, and Ernest Raymond as interim co-chairs to develop the draft and seek approval of it.
12. The meeting ended at 1 p.m. on Friday, July 15, with a luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,


C. Tracy Harrington
July 26, 1988

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7/26/88

D R A F T

PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING A FORMAL FRAMEWORK
FOR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS IN BELIZEAN EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

History/Background

In the mid-1980's, efforts within Belize to strengthen and expand capabilities in higher education led to a number of direct linkages between Belizean institutions and U.S. colleges and universities. These relationships, independently developed and variously fund, were established to address specific educational needs and goals, including faculty and staff development, institutional and program expansion, and curriculum development and improvement. By the late 1980's, it was apparent that coordination of such efforts was necessary to minimize duplication of efforts, to maximize the impact of available resources, and to address the needs of Belizean higher education in a systematic and effective fashion. Indeed, both U.S. and Belizean institutions found ad hoc cooperation and coordination essential in order to meet immediate project goals.

In conversations between Belizean officials and representatives of the various U.S. institutions involved in Belize, Belizean officials repeatedly mentioned the possibility of formalizing the cooperation that to some extent was already taking place. In the spring of 1988, Mr. Ernest Raymond, Principal of Belize Teachers' College, suggested that a consortium be formed to coordinate activities of Belizean and U.S. institutions involved in the development of higher education in Belize. As a result of Mr. Raymond's suggestion, representatives from



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21 December, 1988

Dr. Betty Flinchum
Center for International Education
University of North Florida
4567 St. John's Bluff Road, S.
Jacksonville, Fla 32216

Dear Dr. Flinchum,

Thanks for your letter dated 13th December, 1988 concerning the scheduled meeting of the Consortium for Belize/U.S. Educational Cooperation at UNF on January 20th.

At this time I am uncertain how many delegates will be attending from the University College of Belize; in any case it will not be more than three, and I will be one of the group. Scheduled times of arrival/departure are:

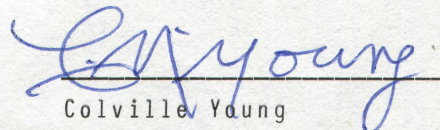
January 19 Arr. Miami International Airport 1:00 p.m. leave 3:50 p.m.
Arr. Jacksonville Airport 5:00 p.m.

January 21 Leave Jacksonville Airport 9:50 a.m.
Arr. Miami International Airport 10:56 a.m. leave 3:02 p.m.

With best wishes,

I remain,

Yours truly,


Colville Young

CY/dc

President — Colville Young, Ph.D.



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA

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Center For International Education

AGENDA FOR CONSORTIUM MEETING JANUARY 20, 1989 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA

- 1) Welcome Remarks by UNF Representative
- 2) Report on Interim Activities by Dr. Harrington
- 3) Report on Response of Belizean Institutions of Higher Learning to the Consortium Proposal
- 4) Discussion of the Need/Request for Broadening the Scope of the Consortium to include Regional Universities, esp UW1, UG and University of Mexico
- 5) Discuss / Amend / Adopt Constitution of Consortium
- 6) Decide on Procedures for Implementation
- 7) Identify Areas for Cooperation / Assistance
- 8) Accreditation
- 9) Strategies for Seeking External Funding
- 10) Set Date and Place of Next Meeting
- 11) Adjourn