

Meeting of the Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation  
Minutes

Date: 9th June, 1989

Present:

Dr. Tracy Harrington - Director: Centre for International Programs, Murray State University Murray, KY 42071 USA

Bobby G. Malone - College of Education, Murray State University, Murray, KY 42071 USA

Dr. William Felker - Chairman: Department of Foreign Languages, Central State University Wilberforce, Ohio 45387

Carlos Castillo - Dean: Corozal Junior College, San Andres Rd. Corozal District, Belize

Sylvia Flores - Lecturer: Belize School of Nursing, Belize City

Dorian Barrow - Lecturer: UCB, Belize City

Ken Wagner (for Matt Klein) - Ferris State University, Big Rapids MI 49307

Peggy Wright - Librarian: Western Ky. University Cronero 500 Bowling Green KY. 42101

Gabino Canto - Lecturer: Belize College of Agriculture, Central Farm Cayo District Belize

Otis H. King - Texas Southern University, 3100 Cleburne Ave. Houston TX 77004

John Peterson - Office of Academic Affairs - Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green KY 42101

George Walker - Vice President: Ferris State University, University College of Belize

Dr. Colville N. Young - President: University College of Belize

Robert V. Haynes - Office of Academic Affairs, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green KY 42101

Betty M. Flinchum - Centre for International Education, University of North Florida Jacksonville, Florida 32216

Cynthia T. Thompson - Principal: Belize Teachers' College University Drive, Belize City

Harold Bergsma - College of Education, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003 USA

Katherine Manley - Ferris State University, 303 Stars Big Rapids, MI 49307

Joseph Palacio - Resident Tutor: U.W.I.

Augustine Flores - Principal: S/C Ecumenical College Dangriga, Belize

Silvana Woods - Head of Education: U.C.B.

The meeting began at 8:30 am with Dr. Colville Young, President UCB, as Chairman. Following some brief words of welcome the Chairman began discussing the first item on the agenda.

#### Agenda Items

- 1 Ratification of the Memorandum of Agreement for the Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation.
  - 1.1 That the title of the founding agreement be changed from "A Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation" to "The Memorandum of Agreement for the Consortium for Belize Educational Cooperation". The motion was moved by John Peterson (Western Kentucky University) and seconded by Mr Carlos Castillo (C.J.C). The motion was moved following discussions on whether the founding document was in fact a constitution. The consensus of the group was that it was not, and the motion was carried unanimously.
  - 1.2 The following changes were made to the original document.  
That section C (Illustrative Programs) be moved to the back of the document as an addendum, labelled Addendum A.
    1. That section B (Aims) subsection 2 reads "collaborating in research, teaching, curriculum and library development and other appropriate scholarly and educational activity".
  - 1.3 That section D become Section C.
  - 1.4 That the statement in Section D1C which reads "... US\$50 for Belizean institutions and organizations" be changed to read "... BZ\$100 for Belizean institutions and organizations."

- 1.5 (i) That the word "selected" in Section D2 be changes to "elected" and  
(ii) that the following be added to D2a "... a secretary and a treasurer whose institution serves as fiscal agent in Section C."  
(iii) that D2c be rewritten to be consistent with the amended D2a.
- 1.6 That the following responsibilities be removed from 3a (duty of the co-chairs) and be included in Section 3c (duty of treasurer).  
- develop an annual budget for approval by the membership;  
- authorize expenditures in accordance with the annual budget;  
- report to the membership on the status of the Consortium funds;
- 1.7 (i) That the word "shall" in section 4b and 4d be changed to "will"  
(ii) that the statement in 4d "institutions and organizations failing to be represented at two consecutive meetings will be dropped from membership" be changed to read "institutions and organizations will commit themselves to be represented"  
(iii) That the portion of section 4e from "while institutions ... by more than one person" be deleted.
- 1.8 That a subsection D5 titled "Provision for amendment to this Memorandum of Agreement" be added to the document which reads  
"amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement can be made during a regularly called meeting by 2/3 of the membership present and voting and providing such notices of the amendment be served to each member 60 days prior to the meeting.

Motion was proposed by Harold Bergsma (New Mex. Univer.) and seconded by Robert Haynes (Wt KY University). The motion was carried.

- 1.9 The motion to adopt the memorandum of agreement as amended was moved by Carlos Castillo, and seconded by Robert Haynes. The motion was carried.

Agenda Item

2. Election of Officers

- 2.1 Non-Belizean co-chairperson  
Betty M. Flinchum was nominated for candidacy by Dr. Tracy Harrington and seconded by John Peterson. Betty Flinchum was elected unanimously.

- 2.2 Belizean co-chairperson  
Dr. Colville Young was nominated for candidacy by Mr. A Flores, and seconded by Dr. G. Walker. Dr. Young was elected unanimously.
- 2.3 Secretary  
Mrs. Cynthia Thompson was elected to the post of secretary by consensus.
- 2.4 Treasurer (Fiscal Agent)  
Dr. Harold Bergsma was nominated for candidacy by Cynthia Thompson and seconded by Dr. C. Young. Dr. Bergsma was elected by consensus.
- 2.41 Dr. Bergsma suggested that matters relating to the post of Treasurer (Fiscal Agent) be directed to him at the  
College of Education  
New Mexico State University  
Las Cruces, N. Mexico 80003

The meeting was adjourned for lunch.

#### Afternoon Session

Chairperson: Betty Flinchum

#### Agenda Item

3. Presentation by Belizean Institutions
- 3.1 Belize Teachers' college (BTC)  
Presented by Cynthia Thompson (Principal)  
that BTC currently has a faculty exchange programme with Murray State and Western Kentucky University, and is currently working on a student/faculty exchange programme with New Mexico State University.  
Ms. Thompson saw the role of the consortium as facilitating the process of faculty exchange especially in areas of need, as encouraging librarians to come down to Belize as part of the exchange programme and as providing some structure that would enable support staff exchanges. She pointed out that BTC was particularly interested in the consortium recognizing BTC courses and programmes, and that BTC would welcome sabbatical exchange of faculty.
- 3.2 University College of Belize (UCB)  
Presented by Dr. Young and Dr. Walker  
Dr. Young presented an overview of the Belizean educational structure. This included a brief history of formal education in Belize, followed by a demographic brief of the primary and secondary schools populations, the Church-State relationships in education funding and control and the roles of the BNSE and OXC exams. Dr. Young then listed the tertiary institutions in Belize, their locations and programme

offerings. This included a brief reference to the University College of Belize, the fact that its first building was nearing completion at a cost of BZ \$1.6 million excluding fixtures. Dr. Young alluded to the problems of bilingualism, the high cost of relevant textbooks, and to the fact that the Government of Belize was committed to quality education. Dr. Walker then made a specific representation on behalf of UCB. Dr. Walker said that UCB was chartered by an act of Parliament, and funded by the Government of Belize. That the University had an independent council which comprised of people representing a wide cross-section of interest in the Belizean Community. In 1986, the University College began a cooperative effort with Ferris State University to offer accredited programmes in Business. In 1988 UCB graduated 4 students with Bachelors Degrees in Business. In the fall of '88 the University started programmes in Education with teaching majors in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Business. In 1989 UCB graduated 16 students with Bachelors Degree in Business. Dr. Walker spoke of the need to develop National degree programmes and the need to broaden the base of the University with more programme offerings. In that regard, the UCB was in the process of offering programmes in allied health, and offering more education majors. The non-degree ESL programme was currently under review. Ms. Silvana Woods then clarified the current standing of the English and History majors stating that they were proposed majors in which substantial course offerings had been made to students who planned on entering the programmes when they officially come on stream.

The table's general reaction to the problem of the non-accredited majors was for an Accreditations Committee to be formed with the specific task of approaching SACS for guidelines on accredited programme development procedures. UCB should also begin dialoguing with consortium universities on specific course and programme offerings to facilitate the articulation process of transfer of credits and recognition of programmes offered at UCB.

### 3.3 Stann Creek Ecumenical College

Presented by Austin Flores

Mr Flores pointed out that the S/C Ecumenical College was started in 1986. Its first graduation was in 1988 when it graduated 6 students. Mr Flores said that US colleges were constantly requesting Stann Creek to clarify course content, and that he felt that the consortium could help in getting S/C Ecumenical College accredited.

#### 3.4 Corozal Junior College

Presented by Mr Carlos Castillo

Mr Castillo said that his problems were the same as S/C Ecumenical College since they started the same year and under the same circumstances.

The table suggested that the two Junior colleges might want to look at UCB and BTC programmes and develop some structure that would facilitate the smooth transfer of students into UCB/BTC programmes.

#### 3.5 Belize College of Agriculture

Presented by Gabino Canto

The Belize College of Agriculture opened in 1978, and began offering Associate degrees two years (1987) students who graduated from the Belize College of Agriculture seek employment in both the private and public sectors. A few students go on with the studies abroad. In this particular respect, Mr Canto said, the consortium could help with placement and scholarships to students at consortium member universities.

The College of Agriculture was also in dire need of more microcomputers.

The limited dormitory space on the College campus is preventing rapid expansion. The college is currently exploring the possibility of joining the Ministry of Education. The College is currently run by the Ministry of Agriculture.

#### 3.6 Belize School of Nursing

Presented by Sister Sylvia Flores

The Belize School of Nursing is one of the many agencies of the Ministry of Health. The school runs 4(four) programmes, with three in session at any one time. The programmes include a 3 years Professional Nursing Programme, a Rural health nurse programme (2 years), a Practical Nursing programme (1 year) and Midwifry programme.

The Government spends about BZ\$25,000 to train professional nurse and a period of bonded national service is required.

The school of nursing was particularly interested in the possibility of faculty exchange with consortium member Institutions.

#### 3.7 U.W.I. Extramural Department

Presented by Dr. Joseph Palacio

The U.W.I. is this year celebrating its 40th anniversary and has recently taken a critical look at the 'A' level entry requirements. As a result 6th form students can enter U.W.I. on the basis of their Associate Degree.