Gauteng workshops on legislative drafting

Seidman, Robert

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Boston University
October 29, 1998

Dear Gavin: This copies a letter today sent by e-mail to Andrew Skeen -- All the best.
Ann and Bob Seidman

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your e-mail.

Here is our position: We really would like to come to get the Programme underway. We are very happy to know of Tshepo's interest, and that he would be willing to help institutionalize it. We have received indications from the Gauteng Department of Finance that they would send 4 to 6 people and pay the regular fee. Firoz Cachalia has said that, in view of the election preparations, the most he can do now is to circulate the other Departments about the course; we have no idea how many participants that might produce. (This year, about 20 people came from outside the university.) We anticipate that, if the housing problem can be resolved, 4 to 5 Sri Lankans would come; but we would have to confirm with them in the next two weeks a) that the Programme is on; and b) that they would have housing.

All of that adds up to about $20,000 salary for us (from the Sri Lankan participants, assuming they come) from which we must pay for air fare -- about $3,000. Truthfully, that strikes us a paltry. If we include Wits students in the course, shouldn't we at least get the usual Wits salary for it?

At present, then, the two sticking points are: (1) we have written to Gavin to ask if P&DM could arrange housing for the Sri Lankans but have received no answer. We do not know if there exists any university housing for visiting scholars; since there will be only 4 or 5, and they could certainly share room, we think they could get along with a 2 bedroom apartment (with cooking facilities if possible), whether at the university or in the surrounding area.

(2) We feel that the proposed salary remains very low, and wonder whether we should not at least receive whatever salary you would pay part-time lecturers of our experience and seniority.

We should add that we have made contact with MacArthur, Kaiser, and Soros Foundations here. Soros spokesman, Mr. Robert Kushen, expressed interest, and referred us to Michael Savage, Director of the Open Society Foundation for South Africa (phone: (21) 683-3489; FAX: 683-3550); we have sent him the proposal and suggested
that our immediate need is seed money now: $10,000 would easily cover our additional salary transport costs. Perhaps you could call him to indicate your interest and ask if they might help.

We are waiting for further response from MacArthur and Kaiser. We did not send them a specific budget, since the one Gavin prepared before now seems out of date. We propose -- if we come -- to equip Tshepo with the theory and techniques he would have taken here had he come to BU; and we would plan to get the Programme well on the way to being permanently established. In any event, a foundation would of course need to negotiate the details of a proposed longer term budget with you and Gavin. We will keep you informed as soon as we hear further from them.

We look forward to hearing from you asap, for, not later than November 15 we will need to make a decision about coming; we must inform the Sri Lankans so that they can make final preparations.

We hope all is well with you. Please give our best to our colleagues there. (As you get more springish there, we get more wintery here....and we think fondly of our pleasant term what, for us, was last spring).

Sincerely,

Ann & Bob Seidman

PS: We seem to have mislaid Gavin Cawthra's address; could you forward this to him? Many thanks.

At 02:37 PM 10/28/98, you wrote:
>Dear Ann and Bob,
> Your email of 20 October 1998 refers Please acquit me of any
discourtesy in delaying with my answer. Carole is away for a while and
I bear a double load.
About the air tickets I am afraid we have to plead poverty. The fund
for visiting professors will only pay for one year and not successive
visits. We are strapped for cash in faculty and return air tickets
could cost about R30000 in total since the currency meltdown in the
middle of the year.
If Gauteng wont send students which Government department would.
Without Government support I presume the whole thing would not be
viable.
Perhaps I am being unduly pessimistic but would like to have your
views as a matter of urgency.
With best wishes,
Andrew
> AQ SKEEN
> CHAIR GOVERNING COMMITTEE SCHOOL OF LAW
> WITS UNIVERSITY
>

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TO: Dr. Gavin Cawthra

FAX NUMBER: 011-27-11-484-1755

FROM: Professor Ann Seidman, Boston University School of Law, 765 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215

DOCUMENT SENT: Letter

COVER PAGE PLUS: 3

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Please call (617) 353-8957 if this transmission is not received to specifications.