A proposal to institutionalize a legislative drafting programme jointly managed by University of Witswatersrand Schools of Law and Public and Development Management

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Boston University
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Dr. Gavin Cawthra
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Dear Gavin:

We have just received an e-mail from Andrew Skeen asking us if we want to teach the legislative drafting course in 1999, along the same lines as we did this year. He indicates that we would have to depend on tuition from government officials plus whatever tuition the Sri Lankan participants paid for our salaries. This year, incidentally, the University put up the costs of our travel, but he has not mentioned that.

In addition, Tshepo, who teaches on the Law School faculty, says he wants to take the course in preparation for it in future. If you would send someone who could also participate in teaching the future Programme, that too seems most useful.

Now, however, we have received some unfortunate news from Firoz Cachalia: Because of the current election activities, everything in the Provincial Government is on hold. He does not think any Gauteng department will be interested in doing what the Welfare Department did last year, that is, to put up half of our salary directly. If we do conduct the course, he will circulate the departments to see if any of them wish to send any officials. If our salary and passage money depend entirely upon tuition from officials, however, the proposition does seem somewhat problematical.

Firoz also mentioned that he had talked with you about the proposed Wits Programme, but that at that time, apparently, you had not known about the possibility that the Norwegians might help to fund it. Possibly, they might help to provide some of the seed funding to ensure that the 1999 course constitutes a foundation for the Programme. We hope you have had a chance to follow up on Jan Mattsson's suggestion. Mattsson was head of the UNDP in Lao when we worked there, and is now deputy-director of the New York UNDP Planning Unit. He told us one of the UNDP's problems in funding the proposed Programme may be that it is very short on funds. He suggested that we should try to trim the Programme budget to more realistic dimensions.

Whether we come to teach the course in 1999 or not depends in
particular on whether the four Sri Lankans, whom we mentioned in our previous FAX, can come. We cannot firm up the arrangements with the UNDP in Sri Lanka, however, unless we can assure housing for them. We would be very grateful if you could let us know as soon as possible whether P&DM can help us with this.

Meanwhile, we are sending the proposal to our contacts in the MacArthur, Kaiser and Soros Foundations. We have not included the budget. If we do come in 1999, the initial costs for training Wits staff would change significantly, since we would undertake at least part of the training not in Boston, but at Wits. Our main purpose is to assess these foundations' interest. Assuming that they are interested, we would have to review the budget in light of the changed situation, keeping in mind, too, Mattsson's comment that he thought the proposed budget quite high.

We hope all goes well with you, and very much look forward to hearing from you about all this.

Sincerely,

Ann & Bob Seidman