Memorandum of Understanding between
la Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar of Quito, Ecuador and
the University of Tennessee, Knoxville

This Memorandum of Understanding establishes the objectives to be pursued by the Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar (UASB) located in Quito, Ecuador and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) located in Knoxville, Tennessee, USA in four principal academic areas: Africana Studies, Global Studies, Latin American Literature, and Latin American Studies. Collaborations and partnerships carried out by the faculty and students of both universities will contribute to strengthening the teaching and research missions of each institution, especially with regard to interdisciplinary, intercultural, and transnational approaches to teaching and learning.

The specific objectives are as follows:
1. Selected faculty in the four principal academic areas will do short-term teaching at the partner institution. Normally, UASB faculty will participate in semester-long classes for two or three weeks in either the Fall or Spring terms at UTK. Such visits will support the teaching efforts of the UTK faculty members assigned to the classes in question via lectures, tutorials, and other activities deemed appropriate by the UTK and UASB professors involved in the courses. With regard to UTK faculty teaching at UASB, most collaborations will take place in late May or June for a period of between two and five weeks, depending on the needs of UASB and the availability of UTK faculty. UTK faculty will either offer complete graduate courses in their areas of expertise or serve in a support role via lectures, tutorials, and brief colloquies. The host institution will be responsible for determining the requirements for each visit (e.g., language requirements, areas of expertise, general parameters of the courses) and will make the final selection of the visiting faculty. Each host institution will provide visiting faculty with housing.

2. Faculty from each institution will be available to serve on theses and dissertation examining committees of the partner institution, consistent with the expressed needs of the faculty and students of each university. Participating faculty will receive an appropriate honorarium for their services from the host institution.

3. Each university will host graduate students from the partner institution for short-term research visits (up to four weeks) by providing housing when available and appropriate faculty mentors.

4. With the leadership of Mr. Renato Landin, who serves as UASB’s IT Director, and Mr. William Rhodes, who is the IT Administrator in UTK’s Electrical and Computer Engineering department, UASB and UTK will develop video conferencing and streaming video capabilities to enhance collaborative teaching and research by faculty and students, as well as to make accessible appropriate lectures, presentations, and conferences sponsored by each institution. UTK’s Information and Technology Engineering Services (ITES) will provide technical support and expertise for projects involving streaming media services which include high-capacity and high-bandwidth videoconferencing, streaming video,
and audio-conferencing in support of research and teaching in all academic disciplines.

5. UASB and UTK libraries will exchange publications and services that are pertinent to the goals and objectives of the linkage. Specifically, UASB will provide the UTK library with its publications (i.e., professional journals and monographs) that deal with the Andean Region, and UTK will support efforts to digitize part of UASB’s library collection, including materials from the Fondo Documental Afro-Andino. UASB and UTK libraries will establish links to their respective websites.

6. UASB and UTK faculty will seek external funding from major national and international foundations and agencies (e.g., Fulbright, Ford, Social Science Research Council, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Science Foundation, Organization of American States) to support collaborative projects in research and teaching.

The UASB/UTK linkage will be coordinated at each institution by a steering committee made up of one faculty member from each of the four general academic areas mentioned above: Africana Studies, Global Studies, Latin American Literature, and Latin American Studies. Dr. Catherine Walsh will chair the UASB steering committee, and Dr. Michael Handelsman will chair the UTK steering committee. No activity may take place in the name of this agreement without the expressed consent of both steering committee chairs. The two steering committees will work jointly to establish an agenda of activities mutually agreed upon, and they will supervise and evaluate all program activities. The two steering committee chairs will prepare and present jointly to the appropriate administrators an annual report in which the year’s activities and goals for the following year will be discussed.

The selection of all participants in this linkage will be the responsibility of the host institution, specifically the steering committee and the academic unit that will work most closely with the visitors. The selection process will conform to the general requirements of the host university.

This Memorandum of Understanding will be valid for three years, beginning with the signing of the document. It may be renewed by mutual agreement. Either institution may terminate the agreement upon notifying the partner institution three months in advance.

Signed on July 27, 2006,

Enrique Ayala Mora
Rector
Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, sede Ecuador

Loren Crabtree
Chancellor
University of Tennessee, Knoxville