MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND
STATE UNIVERSITY
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA, USA

AND

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
BLOEMFONTEIN, SOUTH AFRICA

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (hereafter referred to as Virginia Tech), represented by its President, and The University of the Free State (hereafter referred to as UFS), represented by its Rector, have agreed to the following terms:

1. That this MOU is intended to facilitate all exchanges and cooperative initiatives between the universities in the area of instruction, exchange, curriculum development, research, and community service.

2. That the parties recognize that the implementation of any agreement will depend upon the academic interest and expertise of individual faculty members and upon the availability of financial resources. Accordingly, joint institutional goals will be accomplished in accordance with separately negotiated College and Department level Implementing Agreements (IA).

3. A variety of cooperative approaches shall be explored and these may include:

   Exchange of undergraduate and graduate students
   Exchange of faculty members
   Exchange of research personnel
   Technical assistance and/or training
   Exchange of scholarly and pedagogical materials
   Joint Research
   Other cooperative efforts set forth in a separate Implementing Agreement (IA)
4. The focus of this linkage agreement will be decided upon mutual agreement.

5. That financial and/or funding considerations shall become the subject of specific discussion and agreement within the framework of a separate Implementing Agreement (IA) negotiated at the College/Departmental level. No financial commitment whatsoever on the part of either signatory to this document is intended or implied.

6. That specific projects to which this MOU may lead will be subject to joint and periodic evaluations by appropriate authorities within the respective universities.

7. That this MOU will be in effect for a period of five years from the date of signing and is subject to revision or modification by mutual agreement upon one year's notice. It is assumed that such action would be taken only after mutual consultation in order to minimize potential inconvenience to both parties to the agreement. Upon expiration of this agreement, it can be renewed with consent of both parties.

8. That such Memoranda of Understanding are not intended to be legally binding documents. Rather, they are meant to describe the nature and cooperative intentions of those institutions involved, and to suggest guidelines for cooperation. Nothing, therefore, shall diminish the full autonomy of either institution, nor may any constraints be imposed by either upon the other.

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Charles W. Steger
President
Virginia Tech

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Gerlt N van Wyk, DStH
Faculty of Natural
and Agricultural Sciences
University of the Free State

5 Oct 2002  
Date

5 Oct 2002  
Date