

2/11/2003

## A Memorandum of Understanding

between

The Ministry of Higher Education in Syria

and

Ohio University  
Athens, Ohio, United States

*The Ministry of Higher Education in the Syrian Arab Republic and Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, United States of America, henceforth referred to as the two parties, for the purpose of cooperation in the fields of higher education and academic research, and in the spirit of enhancing mutual understanding and respect between the peoples of both countries, have agreed to put into effect this memorandum of understanding.*

- 1.1 The two parties agree that this MOU will serve as an umbrella agreement between Ohio University and all public institutions of higher education in Syria, particularly the four major public universities (Damascus University, Aleppo University, Tishreen University, and Baath University) and the Syrian Virtual University, henceforth referred to as affiliates.

For the purpose stated in the preamble, and pursuant to meetings held in Damascus, Syria between representatives of the Ministry of Higher Education in Syria and Ohio University the two parties have agreed to the following:

### ARTICLE 1: SCOPE OF COOPERATION

- 1.2 Ohio University and individual Syrian Universities may negotiate and sign separate cooperation agreements that would be considered addenda to this MOU.

### ARTICLE 2: AREAS OF COOPERATION The two parties agree to cooperate in the areas of:

- 2.1 Capacity building: Recognizing the efforts of the Syrian Arab Republic to build its human resources capacity by training future professors and academics, Ohio University agrees to admit Syrian students funded by the Ministry of Higher Education and/or affiliates to its various graduate programs at the Master and Doctoral levels. Such students would need to meet the admissions criteria of and to be accepted by the Ohio University graduate programs in which they wish to enroll. Ohio University will provide a reduction of half of the out-of-state surcharge for these students. The Ministry of Higher Education and/or affiliates will pay these fees in addition to all other costs incurred including airfare, accommodation costs, medical insurance, allowances, general fees and individual college technology fees, etc. The Ministry of Higher Education will send Ohio University an annual list of students nominated to apply to Ohio University under this agreement. Because it is not possible for Ohio University to provide tuition waivers for intensive English courses, it would be necessary to pay full tuition for any student whose test results indicated a need for such classes.
- 2.2 Faculty Exchange: the details of the exchange of faculty members will be based on bilateral agreements between Ohio University and affiliates of the Ministry of Higher Education. Faculty members from the two parties may participate in exchanges, including short-term stays and on sabbatical leaves. The financial details of such exchanges will be agreed upon in writing by the two parties on a case by case basis. In general, the

sending party will fund the salary and airfare of its faculty members, the receiving party will provide logistical support such as office space, library access and access to a computer and the individual participants will handle their own living expenses and insurance costs. No fees will be charged for faculty members wishing to spend their sabbatical leaves at institutions affiliated with both parties. Other financial details (airfare, accommodation, etc.) will be worked out among the participating institutions.

- 2.3 Student Exchange: the details of the exchange of faculty members will be based on bilateral agreements between Ohio University and affiliates of the Ministry of Higher Education and officially approved by both parties. Financial details will be worked out among the participating institutions. Any student exchanges will be detailed in a subsequent agreement.
- 2.4 Joint-Centers: the two parties will work on establishing joint-ventures to create Middle-East and American Studies Centers in Syria. Financial details will be worked out among the participating institutions.

#### ARTICLE 3: IMPLEMENTATION

For the successful implementation and regular follow-up of this agreement, each side will appoint a coordinator from the members of their faculty. The coordinators will develop executive programs which will last for four years. At that point it will be subjected to a comprehensive review by both parties, after which it may be continued unchanged, it may be modified or it may be terminated.

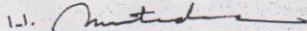
#### ARTICLE 4: VALIDITY

This agreement will be considered effective of the date of its validation by both sides as per the laws and regulations enforced in both countries. This agreement will be renewed automatically each year for four years unless one party expresses a desire to cancel it through a formal request submitted within at least six months of notice. Articles in this agreement may be amended in case of necessity after receiving the consent of both parties.

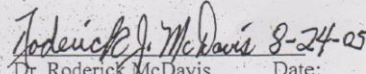
This agreement is signed on / / 2005 in two original copies in Arabic and English, each having equal validity.

On behalf of the Ministry of Higher Education,

On behalf of Ohio University,



His Excellency, Dr. Mourtada      Date:  
Syrian Minister of Higher Education

 8-24-05

Dr. Roderick J. McDavis      Date:  
President, Ohio University