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ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES
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Accra,

May 10, 2000

Dr. Joyce Moock
Associate Vice President
The Rockefeller Foundation
420 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018-2702
U.S.A
Fax N°: 212 851 8436

ORIGINAL BY AIRMAIL

Dear Dr. Moock,

Study on Variants of University Education Provision in Africa

We hereby forward our proposal for a *Study on Variants of University Education Provision in Africa* for your kind financial assistance. A hard copy is being sent by express mail, together with a resume of the project coordinator.

We have incorporated in the final proposal a statement in the methodology section, to the effect that the instruments for the study will be shared with the Rockefeller Foundation and other partners interested in the work, in order to encourage an active interaction during the study. We will engage the services of an additional senior resource person for the project, and have included this in the budget.

We would like the funds to be disbursed in two instalments, to cover the two phases of the project activities. For the first phase involving (a) the hiring of the researcher for the literature review (b) the identification of resource persons (c) the designing and administration of the questionnaire, and (d) the data analysis, we expect the sum of US\$42,500.00 (Forty two thousand, five hundred US dollars) to be remitted to us as soon as possible so we can start the initial work. For the travel to representative universities to update and complete the data obtained through the questionnaire, and the preparation of the comprehensive report, we expect the balance of US\$53,071 (Fifty three thousand and seventy-one US dollars) to be remitted in July, to enable us plan well in advance.

We thank you for a favourable consideration of our proposal and for the opportunity for our two organisations to collaborate on this project on Higher Education in Africa.

Yours sincerely,

DR. DOMINIC TARPEH
AG. SECRETARY-GENERAL

Secretariat: African Universities House, Aviation Road Extension, Airport Residential Area

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ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

Study on the Variants of University Education Provision in Africa

Preamble

The Association of African Universities, established in 1967, has a total of 151 member institutions drawn from the 5 regions of Africa. In carrying out its work across the continent over the years, the AAU has relied primarily on members to provide needed information in the form of surveys, interviews, and questionnaires. This way, the AAU seeks to represent a truly African opinion on higher education issues. The AAU is the author of *The Guide to Higher Education in Africa*, in collaboration with the International Association of Universities. This publication contains essential information on 575 institutions and the higher education system in 46 countries and there is commitment to up-date and issue this publication every two years. The information gathered from this publication will be transferred into a database on higher education in Africa and a CD-Rom will be produced.

Late in 1999 the AAU started a study of private universities on the continent which will be completed and the report available by the end of February 2000. A survey on Strategic Planning in 6 African universities commissioned by the WGHE was published and disseminated by the AAU in December 1996. Annually and since 1991 the AAU organizes SUMA Workshops for Vice-Chancellors and other university managers, who bring case-studies on their universities, to share with other participants. The AAU has therefore the capacity, the experience and some information and data from previous works necessary to undertake with comparative advantage the study on current variants of University Education Provision in Africa. The activity will also help the AAU improve an already existing capacity and information base.

University Coverage

The study shall be confined to a sample of universities selected primarily in English Speaking Commonwealth Africa. It may also involve other universities to be identified in consultation with the foundations involved in the partnership which commissioned the study.

Review of Literature

The study on the current variants of University Education Provision in Africa will start with a review of extant literature on African universities and will focus particularly on the following:

- (a) the concerns, opinions and recommendations of African Vice-Chancellors and Rectors of higher education institutions in Africa as expressed in COREVIP reports, reports of the General Conferences and other AAU studies and conferences;
- (b) the review of the case studies from various universities prepared and used in past Senior University Management Workshops (SUMA);
- (c) the experience on Strategic Planning and Revitalization of African universities as adduced from the Ekong/Plante report on Strategic Planning in selected African Universities, *and*
- (d) the highlights from the study on private universities in Africa, which covers 74 private universities in 21 countries.

A synthesis and distillation of these and other relevant documents will provide a better focus for understanding the problems of African universities and will then lead to the effective mapping of universities from English-speaking Commonwealth Africa. Such mapping will identify the universities, detailing their types (private, public, denominational, distance learning etc.), characteristics, funding situations, relationships with governments or funders, programme offerings, student enrolments (including what type or social group of students each type of university primarily serves), gender and equity policies, use of ICT, etc. The study will then select about 10 universities representing specific examples of the various types of universities mapped, and use them to illustrate the general features ascribed to each university type.

Purpose of the study

Over the years, universities in Africa have been noted for performing their routine job of teaching, research and community service. They have also been recognised for their contributions towards human resources development and to the overall national development in their various countries. However, there has been no comparative study conducted on the type of universities in English-speaking Africa, the peculiar characteristics of each type, the constituencies they serve and their commonalities and differences.

The purpose of this study therefore is to identify the types of existing universities in English-speaking Africa, give examples of each institutional type and highlight in detail the peculiar characteristics of each, as an educational provider in its region or location, including student population and catchment area.

Significance of the study

The study is predicated upon the belief that the mapping of current variants of university education provisions in Africa will help further the findings of previous AAU studies, contribute to the knowledge base necessary to determine strategies to improve the quality of programmes in selected universities and make them serve as models of successful transformation. It is believed also that an understanding of the nature and structure of academic programmes in selected African universities, will help to guide them towards the development of programmes which can help re-shape social policy and public sector reform in their various countries thereby ensuring quality and

relevance in the programme offerings. Besides, an analysis of the variants of higher education provisions in Africa, and the provision of assistance towards reform and development can help underscore the university's profound role in ensuring enlightened and knowledge-based development which if sustained, can bring about positive changes in higher education in Africa. The study can also help policymakers encourage a mix of different institutional types to meet development goals.

General Objective

To map out the current variants of university education provision in English-speaking Commonwealth African countries, including public and private universities.

Specific Objectives

- (b) to provide a clearer picture of the types of universities in English-speaking Commonwealth Africa
- (b) to document the main characteristics of each type and give examples of institutions representing the type
- (c) to identify the sources of funding/support of the universities and their relationship with funders
- (d) to examine how these universities respond to local and national needs through course offerings, research and community services

Methodology

- (e) The study will be preceded by a literature review and conducted through the use of questionnaires, interviews and site visits to selected universities. It will involve the expert assistance of a researcher who will undertake the literature review and assist the AAU Project Coordinator with the site visits, analysis of data and preparation of reports. The synthesis of the literature review, the questionnaire used to collect the data, the list of countries to which the questionnaire will be distributed and the list of universities to be used as examples of each type of university will be shared with Carnegie and other interested partners in the work.
- (f) The questionnaires will be mailed to about 50 universities in English speaking Africa Commonwealth Africa , to enable them provide the information required by the study.
- (g) The study will use the expertise of identified resource persons in selected universities.
- (h) The AAU Project Coordinator with the assistance of the researcher will visit about 15 universities to contact the university leaders to update and complete the data obtained through the questionnaires.

Work Plan

The work plan will comprise the following steps:

- (i) Development of the background to the study and undertaking the relevant literature review
- (j) Design of questionnaires
- (k) Identification of Resource Persons in the universities
- (d) Administration of questionnaires to about 50 universities
- (e) Analysis of data obtained through the questionnaires and selection of about 15 universities in English-speaking Commonwealth Africa, which represent the different variants of the universities
- (f) Update and complement the information obtained from the about 15 universities representative of each institutional type, taking into consideration:

open/virtual universities, public, private, denominational or specialized, the character of each group of universities, programme offerings, sources of funding, the use of information technology in their operation, as well as other relevant characteristics.

- (g) Prepare a comprehensive report based on the general and specific objectives, including the work plan of the study.

Expected Outcome

At the end of the study the following outcomes will emerge:

- (a) a report containing the types and characteristics of universities in English-speaking Commonwealth Africa. It will detail the types giving examples of 2 or 3 of each type, the characteristics of each type, enrolment figures, population served, relationship with funders and governments, programme offerings, number of universities and their geographical distribution, the use of information technology in the university operation and how gender sensitive they are, etc.
- (b) a summary of the findings of the study, including recommendations.

Implementation Schedule

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| (a) | Literature Review | April/May 2000 |
| (b) | Identification of Resource Persons | June 2000 |
| (c) | Design & Mailing/Administration of questionnaire | July 2000 |
| (d) | Data Analysis | August 2000 |
| (e) | Travel to representative universities | September 2000 |
| (f) | Preparations of comprehensive report | October/November 2000 |