

Summary Report of Activities and Outcomes
UMSAEP Grantee: Arif Ahmed, University of Missouri-Kansas City
Grant Period: Summer 2018 (awarded for 2017)

Background

In Fall 2016, I was awarded a \$1,500 UMSAEP grant to redesign an existing UMKC study abroad course, Global Health and Social Issues, that I offer each summer in collaboration with UWC Faculty of Community and Health Sciences. Offered since 2011, this course has proven to be a successful model of partnership between UM and UWC faculty. There has been promising uptick in interest and participation in the course in recent past. It also continues to enjoy active engagement and support from the South African Embassy, the South African Consulate in Chicago, and the local community partners. Most students describe their experience in the course as 'remarkable' and 'life changing'. Yet, it was felt that there were two areas of the course that could be improved by innovative course design and taking advantage of available instructional technology:

- 1) The current structure/arrangement does not afford South African students the opportunity to participate in most aspects of the course.
- 2) It is difficult for other UM campuses (including UMKC satellite campuses) to participate in multiple pre- and post-trip sessions in person.

The UMSAEP funding was provided to extend my stay in Cape Town after the conclusion of my Summer 2017 course to work with Professor Gail Hughes to redesign parts of the course. Specifically, the intent was to develop a common module for the pre-trip sessions of the course and redesign the experiential portion to create opportunities for student interaction and shared learning.

Due to a family emergency, I could not travel to Cape Town with my course in 2017. The UMSAEP Committee graciously allowed me to use the funds in Summer 2018 to conduct the activities outlined in the proposal. Professor Hughes was out of the country on sabbatical leave during that time. I explored opportunities and developed action plans with several individuals including those in the work plan originally developed with Professor Hughes.

Activities

Meeting with Firdouza Waggie: I met with Dr. Firdouza Waggie, Director, Interprofessional Education Unit (IPEU) of the Faculty of Community Health Sciences. Dr. Waggie has been involved with the course since its inception and delivers a lecture during the Cape Town portion of the course each year. We discussed a wide range of possibilities and found the UWC Interprofessional Education (IPE) modules to be the best vehicle for creating shared learning opportunities for UM and UWC students at this time. Short-term possibilities include a lecture via videoconferencing by Arif Ahmed on Comparative Health Systems and small-group projects entailing blog posts and/or program assessment tasks. Additionally collaboration interests and opportunities in IPE research were discussed.

Follow-up meetings with Gerard Filies, Luzaan Kock and Lameez Davids: I had follow-up meetings, including videoconferencing, with IPE staff charged with implementing the IPE modules. We developed

plans to integrate my lecture in the Primary Healthcare (PHC) module in 2019. We have finalized the session objectives and scheduled the lecture via videoconferencing for March 5 at 13h10 - 14h10 SAST. Selection of reading assignments and assessment plan will be finalized in early February. The videoconferencing platform (WebEx) has been used in our communications and will be tested at the actual UWC classroom location in February.

After the PHC module lecture, the possibility of assigning one UM student to each student project group in one IPE class during TERM 2 will be explored.

Meeting with Norina Braaf and Carolynne Kies: I met with Ms. Braaf and Ms. Kies, Instructional Designers at the UWC Centre for Innovative Education and Communication Technology, to understand the instructional technology capabilities and standards at UWC. Particularly, we discussed the learning management system (iKamva) and videoconferencing platforms used at UWC, administrative requirements and options to enable UM and UWC students to participate in common learning spaces, and known issues and constraints for real-time online lecture delivery.

Additional activities

Meeting with Professor Yusuf Osman: I met with Professor Osman, Dean, UWC Faculty of Dentistry, to discuss mutual research interests and explore broader research collaboration opportunities between UWC and UMKC.

Meeting with Brian Van Wyk and Carnita Ernest: Per Professor Uphoff's suggestion, I met with Professor Brian van Wyk, Deputy Dean of Research and Ms. Carnita Ernest, Project Manager, School of Public Health to explore research collaboration opportunities both at a personal level and for other researchers located in the Kansas City campus.

Outcomes

- I will deliver a lecture in the IPE Primary Healthcare module on an ongoing basis.
- A common learning project for UM and UWC students will be developed in TERM 2 of 2019.
- The course collaboration discussions and plans were instrumental in securing a UM System Course Sharing grant to make this course available to students in other UM campuses starting Summer 2020. Faculty members from the Saint Louis and Columbia campuses will be involved in further refining and developing new content for the course. Aforementioned common learning project will be integrated in the redesigned course.
- I am developing a set of collaborative research ideas to share with UWC Faculty of Dentistry.
- I have a better understanding of research collaboration possibilities with the UWC School of Public Health and will utilize that knowledge to connect UMKC and UWC faculty as the opportunities arise.