Declaration of Understanding

between

The University of Wisconsin System
Of the State of Wisconsin

and the

Hessen State Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts

concerning renewal of

The Hessen-Wisconsin Program of Cooperation in Higher Education

In the spirit of the partnership between the State of Hessen and the State of Wisconsin signed in an agreement in 1976, in the belief that the citizens of both states shall directly profit from the furtherance of the exchange of individuals from the fields of education, science, art and culture:

A program of cooperation in higher education was initiated with a Declaration of Understanding signed in 1998 by the Governor of the State of Wisconsin and the Governor of the State of Hessen, desiring to expand scholarly ties, facilitate academic cooperation, and promote mutual understanding between the University of Wisconsin System and the Hessen State Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts.

The Academic Partnership under this program has developed successfully to a well established exchange scheme for transatlantic friendship and became a unique model for a state-to-state cooperation in higher education. We herewith reconfirm the commitment to this engagement and the willingness of our two states to further support and deepen the academic cooperation beyond student exchanges especially in the fields of faculty, staff and research initiatives.

Therefore the partners agree to continue promoting student and scholarly exchange through the Hessen-Wisconsin Consortium of our participating universities.

Objectives

The objectives of the Hessen-Wisconsin Consortium shall continue to be to foster student exchange, encourage faculty and administrative staff contacts and to promote the mutual discovery of knowledge.

Participating Institutions

The participating institutions shall continue as agreed upon and subject to the agreement of the partners and the participating institutions.
**Program of Student Exchange**

The intention of the partners is to promote the exchange of up to 25 undergraduate and/or graduate students per year in a wide variety of fields and courses of study. It is anticipated that each member of the consortium may reserve the right to determine the number of students it will be able to host in a given year as well as fields of study that will be eligible. It is understood that any prior bilateral agreements between participating institutions will remain in place and subject to modification only by separate agreement of the parties directly concerned.

**Tuition**

Students will not be charged tuition by the host institution.

**Duration and Reciprocity**

Methods for determining balance and reciprocity in the exchange shall continue to be negotiated by the Partners according to the current implementing protocol. As a general principle, exchanges shall continue to be on a one-for-one basis for students of like status for equal periods of time. The length of stay may comprise an academic year, or a semester of study, or summer or winter terms. The formula to determine the balance in the case of exchanges for periods of unequal duration, shall continue to be negotiated by the partners.

**Student Status**

Students shall be bona fide students of the home institution and be engaged in a degree oriented course of study. Selection for, or participation in, the exchange shall not confer the right to pursue a degree at the host institution.

**Financial Arrangements**

Both partners agree that all financial arrangements will have to be negotiated and will depend on the availability of funds.

**Program Administrators**

The Partners shall continue to designate program administrators who shall be responsible for facilitating discussions and arrangements between the participating institutions. For the University of Wisconsin System, the program administrator shall be the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, who will designate an Exchange Officer for the University of Wisconsin System. For the Hessen State Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts, the program administrator shall be the Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen which shall designate an Exchange Officer for the Hessen State Ministry of Higher Education, Research and the Arts.

**Review and Termination**

This agreement will remain in effect until one-year advance notification of termination by either partner.
Additional Agreements

Additional projects to enhance educational cooperation between the Partners may be agreed upon at any time.

Languages

This document will be executed in both English and German languages, and both will be considered valid as originals.

Dated this 31st day of August 2011

Honorable Witnesses

Scott Walker
Governor
State of Wisconsin

Volker Bouffier
Ministerpräsident
Land Hessen

Kevin P. Reilly
President
University of Wisconsin System

Prof. Dr. Joybrato Mukherjee
Präsident
Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen