GENERAL AGREEMENT OF ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION

BETWEEN

THE UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICA (SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA)

AND

THE STEPHEN L. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY (NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS, U.S.A)

The University of Costa Rica, San Jose, Costa Rica, represented by its Rector, Dr. Gabriel Macaya Trejos, Doctor in Sciences, identity card number 1-351-249, elected by the Plebiscitary Assembly of April 28, 2000, register number 4-0000-42149-36, with the authority stipulated in Article Forty, clause one of the Organic Statute of the University of Costa Rica, henceforth designated “UCR”, and the Stephen L. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, represented by its President, Dr. Tito Guerrero, hereafter designated “SFASU”, mutually assert their legal authorities to enter into this general agreement of academic and cultural cooperation whose purpose is to foster mutual understanding to strengthen cultural ties and to provide opportunities to expand the experiences and horizons of the participating students, faculty and professional staff.

CONSIDERING

That UCR an SFASU wish to establish a cooperative relationship, through the development of exchange programs of professors, professional staff and students, joint research programs, as well as other academic activities in fields of mutual interest.

AGREEMENT

ARTICLE 1: UCR and SFASU wish to strengthen academic, educational, scientific and cultural cooperation based on the common respect of each institution’s autonomy, in conformity with the governing laws and policies in each country and institution.

ARTICLE 2: Subject to the existing laws and policies in each institution, UCR and SFASU will attempt to achieve the following cooperative goals:
1) Access and exchange of information on undergraduate and graduate academic programs, as well as on scientific and cultural activities at both institutions.

2) The exchange of undergraduate and graduate students to continue studies in different disciplines and to participate in research projects.

3) Exchange of faculty and professional staff for the development of research and learning programs. Both institutions will encourage internships in disciplines and programs of common interest. Each institution agrees to grant credit that corresponds to each professional, based on his/her participation in the activities that generate scientific or didactic information.

4) Development of joint research projects in disciplines and fields of mutual interest whose results will be shared reciprocally.

5) Exchange of experiences and information (written and audiovisual) on teaching programs as well as innovative techniques and formats employed in the educational process. Professors, professional staff, undergraduate and graduate students will be encouraged to participate in such exchanges of experiences and information.

6) Joint participation and exchange of experiences in activities of a social and university nature, where professors, professional staff, undergraduate and graduate students will be encouraged to participate.

7) Joint participation in the development of new areas of research and teaching, with sights towards a more effective use of human resources that will be beneficial to both institutions.

8) Joint organization and participation in pedagogical, scientific, technical seminars and meetings and in competency and skills based activities.

9) Access to laboratory and other research facilities in both institutions, insofar as they are necessary to meet the goals of collaborative endeavors and that they be helpful to this agreement.

ARTICLE 3: The scope and conditions for the development of this agreement’s cooperative activities will be described in Specific Sub-Agreements that will require the approval and signature of the Rector of UCR and the President of SFASU. The academic and administrative requirements of both parties will be respected in the specific sub-agreements.

ARTICLE 4: UCR and SFASU will cooperate in the examination and evaluation of diplomas, certificates and academic titles conferred by the educational institutions in their
respective countries, in the study fields and disciplines of common interest, to determine equivalency and to evaluate the individual who will participate in the joint activities.

ARTICLE 5: UCR and SFASU will assist in the registration and the retention of the participants in the programs included in the scope of this agreement at each institution.

ARTICLE 6: Both parties commit themselves to encourage the development of those initiatives that will strengthen and enrich this General Agreement of Academic and Cultural Cooperation.

ARTICLE 7: The agreement provisions will not limit in any way the rights of UCR and SFASU to initiate and adopt measures related to public health, moral codes, order and safety.

ARTICLE 8: This agreement’s expasence is for five (5) years and will become effective upon signature of the Rector of UCR and the President of SFASU. The agreement may be renewed for a similar period when both parties communicate it in writing by both parties six (6) months prior to its conclusion. Even so, any one of the parties may terminate this agreement, advising the other institution in writing six (6) months before the agreement’s cancellation. In such a case it is understood that all activities, which are already developed, will be concluded in accordance to the agreement.

Administration of this Agreement shall be the responsibility of the Director of the Office of International Affairs and External Cooperation at UCR and the Director of the Office of International Study Programs at SFASU. These representatives at both universities must approve any additions, changes or deletions. All notices shall be writing and shall be directed to these individuals as follows:

To UCR:
Director, Office of International Affairs and External Cooperation
University of Costa Rica
Ciudad Universitaria Rodrigo Facio
San Pedro de Montes de Oca, S. José, Costa Rica
Phone: + (506) 207-5080
Fax: + (506) 225-5822
E-mail: <oaiucr@cariari.ucr.ac.cr>

To SFASU:
Director, Office of International Study Programs
Stephen F. Austin State University
P.O. Box 6152 SFASU
Nacogdoches, TX 75962-6152, USA
Phone: +(1-936) 468-6631

General Agreement of Academic and Cultural Cooperation
between the University of Costa Rica (San José, Costa Rica) and the Stephen F. Austin State University (Nacogdoches, Texas, U.S.A)
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In accordance we sign eight (8) copies of this General Agreement of Academic and Cultural Cooperation, four in Spanish and four in English, all contents being identical and valid.

For the University of Costa Rica

[Signature]

Dr. Gabriel Macaya Trejos
Rector

Date: 09-12-2003

For the Stephen L. Austin State University

[Signature]

Dr. Tito Guerrero
President

Date: 12/1/03