MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR A "2.5+1.5" PROGRAM

BETWEEN

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

AND

ZHONGNAN UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND LAW

The University of Rhode Island (hereafter URI), Kingston, Rhode Island, United States of America and Zhongnan University of Economics and Law (hereafter, ZUEL), Wuhan, People’s Republic of China, agree to develop a plan for an International Bachelor’s ZUEL/URI (2.5+1.5) program for ZUEL students that will be delivered partly at ZUEL and partly at URI and will lead to degrees from both URI and ZUEL. The educational objective of the program is to prepare students in selected academic disciplines, who are proficient in the language, society, and culture of both countries, to be able to interface between the two cultures. At this point, we are inviting applications from ZUEL sophomores for this (2.5+1.5) program. ZUEL School of Finance students can enroll in the URI College of Business Administration and major in Finance.

In the near future, we will expand the MOA to include other programs offered by URI colleges and departments in cases where there is mutual interest from both sides.

TERMS OF ADMISSION

After 2 years of study at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, ZUEL students will study at URI for one and a half year to complete the required 45 credits. After the completion of all URI required classes, ZUEL students will return back to ZUEL to complete their degree requirements at ZUEL. The URI study plan for ZUEL students participating in this program is specified in Appendix I. It is possible that students may finish the URI requirements within two full semesters plus a full summer load of classes.

1. The (2.5+1.5) program size is set at 30 students to allow ZUEL to offer special classes for the participating students. ZUEL will work with URI’s College of Business Administration to ensure the quality of ZUEL students.

2. ZUEL applicants for this (2.5+1.5) program must submit the official results of the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or the IELTS (International English Language Testing System), or the Pearson Test of English taken within the past two years. They must arrange for ETS to report their scores directly to URI. Currently, the minimum score on the Paper-based TOEFL is 550; the computer-based 213 or iBT score of 80. Minimum requirement for the IELTS is a 6.5, and the minimum requirement for the Pearson Test of English is 53.
3. Conditional Admission is possible for ZUEL applicants by studying English through the Language Institute located on the URI campus. Students may receive conditional admission to URI if they meet the academic requirements, but do not meet the English proficiency requirement. Conditionally admitted students may expect to lengthen their program because they will be expected to study intensive English before receive full admission to the ZUEL/URI (2.5+1.5) program.

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

4. All ZUEL/URI (2.5+1.5) students shall be subject to the same academic regulations and policies regarding class performance, community standards, and student discipline systems at URI. In addition, all students must abide by the following:

   a. ZUEL/URI (2.5+1.5) students must be prepared linguistically, so as to be able to participate in the instructional programs of the host university with success; applicants will be expected to meet URI published English proficiency standards.

   b. In accordance with URI academic requirements for its regularly enrolled students, ZUEL incoming students are expected to be in good academic standing for continuation in the program. If such has not been achieved, URI deny continued enrollment without refund of program cost.

   c. Violation of laws committed in the host country shall subject the exchange student to immediate withdrawal of his/her immigration and academic sponsorship and to immediate expulsion from the host country without refund of program cost.

   d. ZUEL/URI (2.5+1.5) students will pay URI international student tuition and fees to URI when they study at URI.

   e. While minor illnesses may be treated at the URI Health Services, each student must be covered by insurance to cover medical contingencies of greater magnitude while in the host country that adhere to the Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, United States Department of State.

   f. Each student is responsible for living expenses, including during extended academic recess (e.g., summer, winter and spring breaks), all transportation costs, books and supplies, health insurance, and personal and incidental expenses.

5. LIABILITY, INSURANCE, INDEMNIFICATION

   a. Each institution shall be liable for its own acts or omissions and the acts or omissions of its employees and agents for any claims made by any person or entity for property damage or bodily injury, including death. Neither institution shall be liable for any indirect, special or consequential damages, including without limitation, operating losses, lost earnings, profits, or other revenue.
b. Each institution shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless, the other, including their respective governing board, board members, officers, directors, trustees, employees, agents, and contractors, for any and all loss, liability, payment, or judgments, including reasonable attorneys' fees, arising out of or in connection with any claim, demand, action or proceeding brought for made by any person or entity for property damages or personal/bodily injury including death, caused by or resulting from its negligence or willful misconduct or the negligence or willful misconduct of its directors, officers, employees, agents or contractors.

6. DURATION AND TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT

a. This agreement takes effect upon signature of both parties. It shall continue for three years, but with twelve months written notice, it can be interrupted or terminated at the request of either institution.

b. The terms of this agreement shall be mutually discussed and agreed upon in writing and signed by both parties prior to the initiation of any specific program or activity. Each university will designate a Liaison Office to develop and coordinate specific activities and programs, which must include the Dean of the URI College of Business Administration, Dean of the ZUEL School of Finance and the Director of International Relations Office at Zhongnan University of Economics and Law.
This Memorandum of Agreement is hereby agreed upon by:

The University of Rhode Island

President David Dooley

Date: 6.7.13

Dr. Mark Higgins, Dean,
College of Business Administration

Date: 6/6/13

Zhongnan University of Economics and Law

President Wu Handong

Date: 6.18.2013

Dr. Song Qinghua, Dean
School of Finance

Date: 6/18/2013