Sabbatical Leave (Spring 2011) Report of Ishita Edwards, Ph.D., Instructor of Economics and Interdisciplinary Studies

I was granted a one semester sabbatical leave for Spring 2011. The purpose of my sabbatical leave was twofold: 1) The primary purpose of the leave was to enhance my interdisciplinary credentials. The particular area of my interdisciplinary studies background I proposed to strengthen during my sabbatical leave was linked to my initial and ongoing teaching assignment, that is, in the area of World Civilization/History. Toward this end I proposed to take one or two Masters level classes in the World/Global History concentration at the nationally credentialed Masters in History program of the American Public University. 2) The secondary purpose of the leave was to prepare an approximately 50 page Economics Course Supplement for students enrolled in introductory Economics classes, particularly designed to address the needs of students enrolled in Principles of Micro and Macroeconomics classes. The economics course supplement booklet would comprise of such learning assists as helpful notes, samples of solved problems, one of two samples of article analysis, a couple of case studies, and possibly, a class simulation.

I have completed two Masters level courses from American Public University’s Masters in History program (nationally credentialed) within their Global/World History concentration. The courses I completed within my sabbatical leave period are: 1) History of World Revolutions, and 2) History of Science, both of which also cross into the interdisciplinary studies area. My unofficial transcript for the above completed courses from the American Public University is attached to this report, as proof of completion. The official transcripts have been requested, and will be sent to the District Human Resource office when received.

The proposed Economics supplementary booklet is also completed. As proposed, it comprises of notes (or lecture abstracts) in Economics (Micro, Macro and general), which will serve as excellent instructional supplements to class lectures in both face to face and distance learning classes, examples of solved problems, sample Micro and Macro article analyses, sample case studies and a
couple of sample classroom simulations. Other than the above specific proposed tasks, between January 5, 2011 and May 31, 2011, I kept myself informed about economic events by reading the Wall Street Journal, The Economist, BBC business and economic news, and economic news and analyses from other sources, and by reading economic journal articles on various topics of current interest and books on economic history and global current economic content.

I have successfully completed all the tasks that I had proposed to accomplish during my one semester of sabbatical leave. The completion of these tasks will enable me to add more interesting interdisciplinary content to my classroom teaching and will help me be a better teacher. Although my classroom evaluations have consistently been good, every ambitious and caring teacher appreciates the opportunity to take classes and learn more, to improve one’s general reading, and to develop helpful and interesting teaching tools to assist student retention and success.

I am very grateful for this opportunity to be able to take time off from my busy teaching schedule and committee involvements, to be able to engage in the acquisition of further academic training in the subject areas which have been my normal duties for the past twenty years.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Best regards,

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