

MEMORANDUM

June 6, 1969

To: Dean George T. Matthews

From: Sid Mittra S.M.

Subject: ANNUAL REPORT - ECONOMICS-BUSINESS DEPARTMENT, 1968-69

A major departmental achievement during the academic year 1968-69 was the unanimous decision by the Economics-Business faculty to join the School of Economics and Management which will be activated on July 1, 1969. The immediate objective of the School will be to prepare students for careers involving problem-solving and decision-making in different kinds of organizational settings. It is hoped that in pursuing this objective the School will attract qualified faculty and that a stimulating environment for research and other professional activities will be maintained. Such activities are essential to the development of a graduate program, which is the intermediate-range objective of the School.

During the year, major departmental efforts were devoted to recruiting new faculty to begin in the Fall of 1969. We have been very successful in our efforts, as is evident from the quality of the people who have agreed to join the department. Anthony Cephalas, a London School of Economics graduate and a candidate for the Ph.D. at Wayne State, comes to us with a strong background in international economics and economic theory. Kenneth Young, who expects to have his Ph.D. from Purdue before he arrives on campus this fall, is well grounded in both microeconomic theory and labor management. He has taught statistics and mathematical economics at other institutions and brings with him a wealth of good research experience. David Doane, currently working on his Ph.D. at Purdue, has the potential for becoming a first-rate scholar and a thoughtful colleague. He has taught a number of undergraduate courses at Purdue and has proved to be an effective teacher.

In recent months, the University has emphasized the fact that a conscious effort must be made to have a greater representation of the black community on the University's faculty. With this objective in mind, the department made serious efforts to hire a qualified Negro economist. We were successful in locating Hollis Price, a Negro economist at Antioch who is currently working on his Ph.D. at Colorado. He is basically a labor economist and is very enthusiastic about urban affairs. An offer has been made to Price; his response to our offer is eagerly awaited.

The department was fortunate in acquiring the part-time services of three persons, Charles Craypo, James Wallace, and Elizabeth Wright. Craypo, a well-known labor economist from MSU, continued to teach a course in labor economics. James Wallace, a graduate of Brown University and an econometrician associated with General Motors, offered courses in econometrics. In addition, Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, who has designed and developed several educational programs, joined our department for the Winter 1969 term and offered an exploratory for freshmen. We were also fortunate

in having Theodore Yntema and Karl Gregory on our staff. They have continued to stimulate us intellectually despite the fact that numerous outside demands continue to absorb most of their time.

Faculty Research and Other Professional Activities

The year 1968-69 was a productive one insofar as academic research by our faculty members was concerned. Professor Botsas's researches into labor emigration and balance-of-payments problems continued throughout the year. Two of his articles were accepted for publication in foreign journals, while a third is under consideration. In addition, Botsas presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Arts and Sciences. Currently, he is working on a full-length book which he expects to finish during the coming academic year.

Professor John Tower began working on a model of some economic aspects of the black ghetto, using Detroit data. As a subsidiary result of this research, he hopes to produce a readings book on the economic aspects of the ghetto.

Professor John Hurd completed his Ph.D. during the year. Once his dissertation was out of the way, he began reworking his thesis for the purpose of making it publishable. Two of his book reviews were published and he continues to work on growth problems of developing nations. He was invited to participate in a conference of American and Canadian scholars working on India's economic problems.

Professor Robbin Hough continued his research in the area of human learning. Several years ago, he constructed a Systems Model of the Classroom under a research grant from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. His present research closely parallels his work on this classroom model.

Professor Edward Starr continued to work on his dissertation which he expects to complete this summer. As in previous years, he actively participated in the development of freshman learning seminars.

Professor Norton Seeber was heavily engaged in the development of Oakland's School of Economics and Management. In addition, he began the fourth revision of the Workbook in Economics with Myron Joseph.

Mittra completed four books during the year. Two of them went to press; the other two were sent to publishers for their consideration. Also, the second edition of his monograph was published by the United Nations. Four of his articles and reviews were published in national and international journals, and he presented a paper at the annual meetings of the Southern Economic Association held in Washington. He also acted as a consultant to the United Nations in their program for the development of new pedagogical approaches to the teaching of the latest economic development techniques to South-east Asian economists. In addition, he continued to act as an Associate Editor for an economic journal.

Research Grants

In the area of grants, the department fared well. Tower, Botsas, and Mittra were awarded University grants to support their research activities. An application was made by Robbin Hough to the Federal Government for a grant to construct a model of human learning.

Miscellaneous Comments

The department was very fortunate in receiving considerable editorial assistance from Mrs. Mary Isbell, secretary to the Economics-Business Department. It has always been known to the faculty that Mrs. Isbell's comparative advantage lies in her ability to undertake editorial responsibilities, so rare a quality even among the best secretaries; however, because of her numerous, and often incredibly large, administrative burdens, she was unable to spare much time for editing. During the latter part of this academic year, due primarily to the addition of an excellent secretary to the department, Mrs. Isbell has been able to devote much of her time to editorial work.

I should like to make mention of the fact that during the year members of our department engaged in "non-academic" activities as well. In addition to professional and departmental commitments, members of the Economics-Business Department engaged in numerous University and community affairs, including committee work, consulting activities, and other varieties of organizational participation.

In the end, I should like to make mention of an effective line of communication that has been established among the members of the department. Each week a general departmental meeting is held during which matters of general interest are discussed, important policy decisions made, and future courses of action planned. This gives each member of our faculty a sense of participation and keeps him abreast of all the developments which concern him in particular and the department in general.

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