

MEMORANDUM

March 15, 2000

TO: The International Studies Program, SDSU

FROM: Glen Sparrow
Dipak K. Gupta

RE: Trip to Punjab University, India

We have returned from our trip to India. As a part of our effort, we wanted to explore the possibilities of student exchange between SDSU and Punjab University. We met a number of faculty members and university administrators and held a number of fruitful discussions. In particular, we met Dr. Madan Mohan Puri, Vice Chancellor (President) Punjab University, Dr. Ashok Sahani, Dean of University Instruction, Professor Paramjit Singh, the Registrar of the University, Professors Sanjay Chaturvedi, Brar, and Pompa Mukherjee. Additionally, the issue of student exchanges was introduced during a plenary session of the *Border Regions in Transition IV*.

We acquired a Punjab University *Handbook of Information* and promised to send the SDSU *General Catalog* and *Bulletin of the Graduate Division* and draft agreement for student exchanges. [Will the International Studies Program provide us with these documents.]

We found a great deal of enthusiasm at Punjab University for a student exchange program with SDSU. However, there are a number of potential roadblocks.

The following are the points in favor of a successful student exchange program:

1. Punjab University is one of the premier educational institutions in India. It is a public university, funded by the Federal Government of India.
2. It is a forward looking institution with a sizeable body of foreign students from the CIS, Iran, and many other countries of Africa and the Middle East.
3. The cost of living is extremely reasonable. Our students would be able to live comfortably on less than \$300 a month (which is about the salary of a professor in the university).
4. Punjab University offers a wide variety of courses at both Bachelor and Masters degree level.
5. Unlike most universities in India, most departments in Punjab University are on semester system that coincides nicely with SDSU academic calendar.

Obstacles

1. Due to the significant variance in standards of living between the two countries costs incurred in traveling to San Diego would be a significant burden for potential Indian exchange students.
2. Punjab University is interested in an exchange where they pay for the visiting students' living expenses for a semester. In return, they would expect us to bear the expenses of their students visiting SDSU.
3. Based upon the high cost of living in San Diego, "out of pocket" expenses for Indian students would also make exchanges difficult

Recommendation

We should explore innovative possibilities for securing funds for supporting visiting students from Punjab University. This may possibly include:

- Explore possibilities of home stays for foreign students
- Raising money from private donations
- Since Punjab University is going to assume financial responsibilities for our students in Chandigarh, our students may be charged a fee equivalent to half of their living expenses here to support the incoming students. In that case, we may be able to support one Indian student for every two of ours.
- SDSU donating a small number of dormitory spaces for visiting foreign students.

Additional Suggestions

In regard to the continued utilization of faculty to incorporate discussions of student exchanges in their travels to international meetings and foreign campuses we would suggest a packet be prepared for faculty to take with them that contained the following:

- Draft student (and perhaps faculty) exchange agreements,
- University *General Catalog* and *Bulletin of the Graduate Division*.
- Information from the Housing Office regarding student housing, including pictures, descriptions and costs.
- Some type of "Chamber of Commerce/Convention and Visitors Bureau" literature regarding the San Diego region.