



**STATEMENT OF INTENTION FOR A COLLABORATION
BETWEEN
UNIVERSITY AUSTRAL OF CHILE AND VIRGINIA TECH**

In follow-up to discussions held between representatives of University Austral of Chile (UACH) and Virginia Tech (VT) on April 22-24, 2008, in Valdivia, Chile, the two institutions state their intention to collaborate in the establishment of the Pan-American Center for Leadership in the Sciences. The proposed Center's mission is to advance discovery, learning, and engagement and to support the development of a new generation of academic leaders, who will contribute to global understanding of critical issues in the sciences.

To launch the Center, University Austral of Chile will provide office space and operational and administrative infrastructure. Virginia Tech will provide start-up resources to employ a part time director. The responsibilities of the Center Director will be to coordinate and promote the exchange of students and faculty, to identify collaborative research projects and funding, and to communicate the accomplishments of the collaboration.

The Center will be governed by a ten member Board of Directors, which will be constituted by equal members by the two partner universities. Board representation from University Austral will be appointed by the Office of the Rector. Board representation from Virginia Tech will be delegated to the Vice President of Outreach and International Affairs and the deans of the four participating colleges or their designees. The board will meet at least once a year.


The start up of the operation of the Center will be divided into two stages:

- Stage 1: Launch, July 1, 2008, with the first meeting of the board of directors and the employment of the program director.
- Stage 2: Consolidate and develop the first collaborative research projects no later than March, 2009.

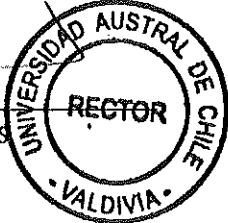
Initial activities of the Center will involve:

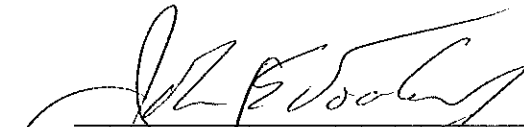
1. Virginia Tech's Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Natural Resources, Science, and Veterinary Medicine will host up to two UACH undergraduate/professional honors students per year (eight students) for a two/three/six month research internship. Students will be provided a monthly stipend. UACH (or the student) will be responsible for providing transportation to Virginia Tech and return to UACH for graduation following the internship.
2. Participants evaluated "ready for admission" to Virginia Tech graduate programs and who pass the TOEFL will be provided a graduate assistantship to Virginia Tech to pursue a doctorate. Virginia Tech will provide graduate assistantship support and tuition for the graduate students for up to four years for degree completion.
3. University Austral of Chile will provide incentives to attract program participants to its faculty upon degree completion.
4. Virginia Tech will grant "adjunct faculty" status to those who return to the University Austral of Chile in a faculty position.
5. University Austral of Chile, working in partnership with Virginia Tech, will enhance its existing honors program by offering a seminar series that introduces students to basic research methodology and the role of research in the academy.
6. The two universities will explore ways to enrich English language training of honors program students who choose to participate in Center programs.
7. University Austral of Chile will provide up to three years of financial support (stipend/comision de servicio) for any current faculty member who qualifies for admission to Virginia Tech graduate school and passes the TOEFL. Virginia Tech provides tuition support.
8. The two universities will identify a select number of research projects in the sciences to pursue collaborative funding.
9. The Center will facilitate the dissemination of research to Chile, the US, and Latin America.
10. The two universities will enter into a student exchange agreement to encourage two-way mobility between the institutions.

11. The two universities will actively seek funding from CONICYT to support UA students' graduate work at Virginia Tech.
12. As Center programs mature, the two institutions may consider the development of collaborative graduate degrees to advance the partnership.
13. The board of directors will annually evaluate the success of the Center and, working with the program director, approve an annual work plan.
14. The Center will undergo a major review after three years for future development.
15. All issues not addressed in this document will be taken to the board of directors for dispensation.

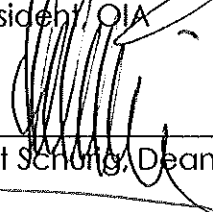


Juan O. Cofré Lagos
Rector (S)






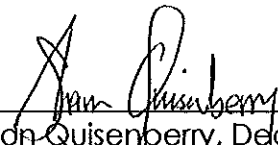
John E. Dooley
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Lay Nam Chang, Dean