

APPENDIX D: INTERVIEW WITH JEANETTE HANNAFORD

Interviewer: Tell me how did you become involved as a mentor in the MMUF programme?

Jeanette: Margaret (a colleague) approached me that there was a student in my specialty area who needed a mentor and she asked me if I wanted to be mentor even if I was no longer in that unit, and it came as a bonus to her because that particular department was a busy one and it was going to be difficult for her to get a mentor and that they would not give Tshepo the input the kind of pastoral care that I give, and I was excited about it.

Interviewer: how did the two of you work, since he is in Anthropology and you are not.

Jeanette: No, I was part of Anthropology, I did my Masters in Anthropology and I am still interested in Anthropology issues, still obviously read the paper to keep up and I give her articles.

Interviewer: Did you have any experience of mentoring?

Jeanette: None whatsoever, absolutely none...

Interviewer: but the way the two of you carry on it's like you've been there forever

Jeanette: You know Tshepo makes it easy for me to work with her

Interviewer: but he also thinks you made it easy for her

Jeanette: you know the first time I met she, I thought he will be shy but she was confident she was asking me questions and I though..ooohh, so I think she was an ideal mentee.

Interviewer: Why did you agree to be a mentor on the MMUF programme? What did you bring to the mentoring?

Jeanette:I think I brought quite a few things; firstly I am very interested in student development, my Anthropology background. I was intrigued when Margaret told me about the project. As I've said I've never mentored and did not know what it entailed but it sounded like something I've always wanted to do. Part of what I want to do in this planet is make a difference in someone else's life

but when I was still in the Anthropology department I was the academic development tutor, so I was very interested in supporting students from generally disadvantaged background I was and still interested in empowering them, I am interested in trying to undo the damage that bantu education has done, even though we are nominally a democracy the education system is still a mess, there still like have -not's in education. I

Mentoring

Interviewer: Did you agree to be a mentor, because you were going to be paid or for the love of it?

Jeanette: Payment was a bonus, but I would have done it for nothing,

Interviewer: I realize that you are helping her with the proposal, even though you not going to be paid.

Jeanette: Yes, I mean Matsie mentoring is a two way street I have learnt so much from Tshepo much as he did from me so, its not as if he is getting a full benefit of my all experience I am also getting something, you cant put a rand amount of it, its priceless.

Interviewer: You started in March 2008, it that right? Did you and your mentee talk about expectations or goals or establish ground rules?

Jeanette: We started with some vague boundaries and rules and goal whatsoever but it faded as I did not know what to expect. I did not want to go in there like a dictator saying “you do this” I just let it unfold but I felt safe when she was wondering I would moan at her.

Interviewer: How would you describe communication in the relationship?

Jeanette: We have very good lines of communication mainly sms we have interesting smss conversations that goes on for three hours and we talk on the phone. She has taken over my office so unbearably when I go in to work I have to arm wrestle with her over my seat we e mail a lot so we in a lot of contact

Interviewer: Do you expect her to call you within a specified time or she can call at any time?

Jeanette: She can call me at any time and she started calling me after nine o clock at night she knows not to expect me to answer the phone I will because I worry but she can contact me when she needs to contact me and if she smss me at ten o clock at night she is not being rude it means something is happened and she needs a response then because she is feeling stressed at that point and then I will respond so the communication is fine.

Interviewer: So you did not set rules about phoning.

Jeanette: I suppose I should have but I did not it was such a comfortable relationship from the word go and she is such a respectful young women that I knew that she would not contact me after hours unless it was really important and that’s kind the kind of ... understanding that’s been maintained the whole three years of being together.

Interviewer: Please tell me about your experience as a mentor In the MMUF programme? Does it make any difference if the mentor and the student are of different race groups, different gender, different research interests or different economic background?

Jeanette: Interestingly I don't know if race place a role yes I am white and yes she is black and I suppose there might be a perception that because I come from a very advantaged background because of my apartheid education versus her background but race does not play a bigger role we laugh a lot about it ,I tell a lot of people that she is my little sister you know its obviously a joke because we different races it does not bother me its like I don't see that she is black its her personality its who she is when I first met her. The first meeting I had so much to offer and I felt very superior and I walked away from the first meeting feeling very humbled by this very assertive very self confident, motivated, intelligent young woman. I thought initially I will be doing this great almost a charity I am embarrassed to admit and when I meet her I realized that's not what she needed, she needed an equal someone who would walk the path with her so I suppose that's the history of the country I am white she is black the educational difference that's always going to be there but it does not play a role in our relationship at all. It probably would have been different if it was a guy and I think people of the same gender and particularly women are much more communicative we much more in touch with the fuzzy wazzys I don't know what the academic term for that is but if she is having boyfriend trouble she can talk to me because I am a girl and I have had boyfriends and I have had boyfriend trouble and we on the same page in that era, if she has period pains we can talk about that because we are girl and we both get that, I think if I had a male student I don't think we could have spoken about that I mean we could have still spoken openly about relationships and stuff but I think women we just on the same wave length, we have got the same experiences in terms of life kind of the biological side.

Interviewer: If she was a guy and she was sick were you going to take her to your GP?

Jeanette: Absolutely, that's part of the holistic looking at them, you know she was resistant to go to doctors so I harassed her until she went I think she went to shut me up but I was sufficiently worried about her to do that, same thing with the guy I was worried about his health I felt that he was not looking after himself I would have also have kidnapped him, I think, this is just projecting but I think and I have seen him.

Interviewer: You've talked about your experience; tell me whetherTshepo (student's name) has grown academically and personally from mentoring....

Jeanette: She has grown phenomenally her writing, her ideas, the writing still needs work but from the first bit that I saw to now has taken off. I think that had an effect because there is certain things I have said to her constantly like stop writing like you speak because swooping speech from spoken to written is problematic she can now identify when she is doing that and she laughs because she know that I am not going to like it so she is reflecting on her writing and I very often tell her she is not using enough examples or she is just using an example she is not unpacking it and now when she does that she can see for herself before I even open my mouth and she often laughs at me if she send me something and I make a comment she is like I knew u were going to say that so I think that she has grown from the writing I don't know personally I would like to think that she has I would like to think that she has grown a little bit but I can not really see... I think she has somebody else to talk to that's not her parent that's not a facilitator so is like a friend somebody how is removed from all of that.

Interviewer: She is transferring the skill that she has learned from you about writing telling the other group that you know that gene wants you to criticize what you have written before you give it to her.

Jeanette: I was laughing because she was struggling to write this proposal and I said to her you know what writing is a process you write and then you edit it does not get perfect the first time and I saw on face book this morning she says writing is a process. I was like yes!

Interviewer: Can you give some example? Her marks? Reports?

Jeanette: I think they don't reflect what she had done I think particularly the end of last year I thought the results were from 69 points from up some thing...I think that did not reflect the amount of work and understanding and growth in terms of the knowledge that she had but there is other political issues with the particular lecturer in the department so I don't think the 69 points reflected what she was capable of, I think that probably 75 or 78 would have but at list she got feedback and she is the kind of person who would take feedback and use it to grow so no its not deflective but I am pleased with her work, attitude and motivation I am very proud of her for that.

Interviewer: Now that your relationship of mentoring may come to an end would you do it again with someone else?

Jeanette: Yes, she might not let me she say she is not going to share me but I would like to because I do not want to stick to just one person, I do not know if I would get another Tshepo though you know we were kind of fortunate like I said we just jelled so definitely we were very fortunate but I would love to try it.

Interviewer: I am thinking that we have an IR student but now that Tshepo does not want to share you we may let you pass this year.

Jeanette: She might be joking, well I am quite happy to work with both of them there is plenty for me to go around.

Interviewer: But you are busy with your PhD this year.

Jeanette: No comment on that one but that's coming together nicely and its also nice for Precious to write her masters while I am doing my PhD because even though a PhD is a bigger project she is seeing what I am going through and I have given her copies of my PhD proposal and she is modeling her masters proposal.