

APPENDIX C: INTERVIEW WITH EBRAHIM

1. How did you become involved as a mentor in the MMUF programme?

I was approached by the DVC academic to become involved in the project as the student was in Actuarial Science.

Did you have any experience of mentoring?

Yes. I had mentored students in the Advanced Mathematics of Finance Program before this. I had also been a student mentor when I was a graduate student at Wits.

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

I found the whole concept interesting and felt I would be able to make a contribution through interacting with Tshepo. I brought my academic knowledge and experience in writing academic papers as well as my personal experience as a mentor.

3. You started in March 2008, is that right? Did you and your mentee talk about expectations or goals or establish ground rules?

Yes we did. The program also sent out clear guidelines which were useful.

4. How would you describe communication in the relationship?

I think it was very friendly. We got on very well.

5. 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?

The experience from my side was positive. In the Faculty of Science our interaction tends to be driven by our research interests more than by race/gender issues. Both Tshepo and I had an interest in financial modeling and this is what we focused on. I did not notice any difference in my interactions with Tshepo when compared to my interactions with other students in the School.

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

I believe so. I think that the trip overseas was a worthwhile experience. When he came back he was much more focused and committed to his studies. He has now completed his studies in actuarial science and has graduated from the University.