

Dear John,

How is life? Ready for a new academic year?

You asked for an update on my PhD by about this time. Well, things are going quite well. A major reason is that a two month work assignment suddenly did not materialize. As a result I had more time for the PhD, and have made good use of that. I have a more or less complete draft of the thesis ready and hope to get comments on that from my first supervisor by mid October. I will then revise the draft based on his feedback and by the end of November or early December present the next version for comments to the "Academic Teaching Committee" at York University. It may then take me one or two more revisions before I can hand in the final version, hopefully by June 2004. This would then allow me to complete the PhD by August 2004 as planned.

As you might recall I had originally planned to do the PhD in 350 working days. As things stand now it will probably take me 420 days, i.e., 20% more than planned but still 15% or so less than the 500 you suggested.

I should mention that the above timeline assumes there will be no disastrous faults in the draft that I have complete now. Doing the PhD part time and away from the university does mean I lack the feedback that others might get in between handing in official versions of their work. By mid October I should have a better idea about whether or not my work to date is basically up to standard...

In September I did my last field work in India. I interviewed a very active government servant and at the end of the interview he started questioning me about the PhD itself. It turned out he wanted to do one but never got beyond the point of registering. I was able to give him a lot of practical advice on how a middle aged professional might approach a part time PhD. He was so encouraged that he said he would definitely get on with it now. He suggested I write my experience up and publish it. I wonder what you think about that, and if you think it is a good idea, whether we should jointly write an article, or who knows, in due course a book?

In any case, I will not start on that until I am more or less sure that I will get the PhD myself. By the end of this year that should be clear.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Greetings,

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