

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF QUALITY ENHANCEMENT CELLS

1 Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan hosted a two day meeting of Heads of Quality Enhancement Cells on 29-30 April, 2009; in which the QEC's shared the executive summary/ implementation plan of the Model Department/s.

1.1 The following attended:

1. Prof. Dr. Azam Ali Khwaja, Managing Director (QAA), HEC, Islamabad
2. Air Commodore (R) Muhammad Ismail, Director Quality Assurance, National University of Science and Technology, Rawalpindi
3. Dr. Anwar- ul- Hassan, Director QEC, Agriculture University, Faisalabad
4. Prof. Dr. Mohammed Sajidin, Director QEC, University of Karachi, Karachi
5. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Ahmed, Director QEC, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muzafarabad
6. Prof. Dr. Naheed Zia Khan, Director QEC, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi
7. Prof. Dr. Abdul Hameed Memon, Director QEC, Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering, Science & Technology, Nawabshah
8. Dr. Shagufta S. Panwhar, Director QEC, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences, Jamshoro
9. Dr. M. Daud Awan, Director QEC, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad
10. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad Khan , Director QEC, NWFP University of Engineering and Technology, Peshawar
11. Dr. M. Rafiq Baloch, Director QE&A, Balochistan University of Information Technology and Management Sciences, Quetta
12. Dr. Abdul Sami Qureshi, Director QEC, Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro
13. Dr. Riaz Hassan, Director QEC, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad
14. Dr. Riaz Ahmad, Director QEC, University of Arid Agriculture, Rawalpindi
15. Engr. Riasat Ali Kubar, Director QEC, Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam
16. Mr. Sarfaraz Pirzada, Director QEC, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad
17. Ms. Iram Sohail, Director QEC, Government College University, Lahore
18. Dr. Muhammad Farooq, Director QEC, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan
19. Syed Abbas Hassan Gillani, Deputy Director QEC, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan
20. Mr. Dawar Hameed Mughal, Deputy Director QEC, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore
21. Mr. Asiyah Bukhari, Deputy Director QEC, Kohat University of Science and Technology, Kohat
22. Ms. Uzma Waseem, Coordinator QEC, Government College University, Faisalabad
23. Ms. Fouzia Bangash, Assistant Director QEC, NWFP Agriculture University, Peshawar

24. Ms. Mahwish Asmatullah, Assistant Director QEC, FRONTIER Women University, Peshawar
25. Mr. Hamayoun Khan, In charge QEC, Quaid – i- Azam University, Islamabad
26. Mr. Abu Bakar Nazeer Choudhry, Research officer, University of Sargodha, Sargodha
27. Ms. Fakiha Zafar, Program Coordinator (QAA), HEC, Islamabad
28. Ms. Tahreem Aslam, Training Coordinator (QAA), HEC, Islamabad

- 1.2 Representatives from University of Punjab, Lahore; University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore; University of Peshawar, Peshawar; Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi; University of Balochistan, Quetta and University of Sindh, Jamshoro did not attend the meeting.
- 2 Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zafarullah, Vice Chancellor, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan appreciated the efforts of HEC for organizing the meetings in different cities of Pakistan as it assists in propagating awareness for quality education. He said that assessment is a great tool being used to sensitize the Universities about the innovative use of Knowledge, improved teaching, accountability and performance. He assured that BZU will continue to pursue the objective of producing quality graduates and the University is taking different initiatives to improve the quality of education. BZU as one of the premier universities of the country is committed to providing quality education and has begun to derive benefits from the quality assurance processes introduced by HEC. Participation of the Vice Chancellor in the opening and concluding sessions and in the activities of the meeting was appreciated by all.
- 2.1 Prof. Dr. Azam Ali Khwaja, Managing Director (QAA) thanked the Vice Chancellor, Bahauddin Zakariya University for hosting the event. He briefed the participants about the history of quality revolution and told them that though Pakistan started the process very late in 2005 but still progressed very rapidly to achieve international recognition for its achievements. Heads of QEC's shoulder a heavy responsibility of introducing and implementing the Quality Assurance Model in their respective universities. He further stated that another 15 QECs will become operational in the next financial year.
- 2.2 The two days meeting was divided into four sessions chaired by Air Commodore (R) Muhammad Ismail, Dr. M. Daud Awan, Prof. Dr. Naheed Zia Khan, and Dr. Abdul Sami Qureshi respectively. The QECs were advised to strictly follow the agenda of the meeting and provide only the relevant information.
- 2.3 Responding to a query regarding the involvement of head of QEC in other statutory bodies and the extended involvement of QEC other than the implication of QA model, the Managing Director QAA said that the decision of making QEC head a member of the statutory bodies was made with the mutual consent of the QECs. However, the concept is a new one and we are learning with time the different ways and constraints of implication. The Vice Chancellor of the University may decide about the involvement of QEC in affairs other than self assessment.

2.4 The Heads of QECs made the following suggestions during the meeting:

- During the Vice Chancellors meetings HEC should convince the Vice Chancellors to undertake self assessment as a mandatory activity in their respective Universities.
- Frequent trainings should be arranged for the QEC staff also involving the Deputy Directors.
- Certificate/ Diploma courses in QA should be introduced for the QEC staff by HEC.
- Regular interaction among the QECs should be made possible.
- A newsletter covering the activities of the QEC may be published by each University and shared with others.
- Software for online registration may be sponsored by HEC.
- E- Proformae developed by some QECs should be shared with others.
- Eligibility criteria for the Director/ Deputy Director may be relaxed.
- Separate funds for QEC may be released by HEC along with the recurring budget.
- Regular visits of the QAA staff to the QECs should be undertaken.

2.5 Common problems/ bottlenecks shared by the QECs are:

- Frequent change in the QEC management
- Lack of permanent staff for the QEC
- QEC purview not clear
- QEC engaged in many other additional tasks
- Resistance from the faculty
- Lack of incentives for the Program Teams
- Lack of appreciation for the department that has undergone self assessment
- Quality culture not being properly developed
- QEC perception as a monitoring body rather than a facilitating department

2.6 Managing Director, QAA expressed his concern for the QECs who have shown slow progress. Further requirements outlined were:

- 1) QEC's will prepare their Activity Plan if possible for the entire financial year.
 - 2) Quality Assurance Model will be implemented in at least six teaching departments or more.
 - 3) Membership of International Bodies will be obtained.
 - 4) Heads of QEC's will cooperate and collaborate with each other on quality assurance issues through the chat group being established for the purpose.
- 2.8 The efforts of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Farooq for organizing the meeting in Bahauddin Zakariya University were highly appreciated by the participants.

The meeting ended with mutual thanks.

Prof. Dr. Azam Ali Khwaja
Managing Director QAA
Higher Education Commission
Islamabad