

MINUTES OF THE TENTH MEETING OF QUALITY ENHANCEMENT CELLS

1 A two day meeting of Heads of Quality Enhancement Cells was held at Punjab University, Lahore on 12-13 March, 2008 to share the outcomes of the evaluation of the model departments as well as the steps taken to overcome the deficiencies. The two days meeting was followed by a one day workshop on “Program Outcomes”.

1.1 The following attended:

1. Prof. Dr. Abdul Raouf, Chairman ,Quality Assurance Committee
2. Prof. Dr. Riaz Hussain Qureshi, Advisor (QA& LI) HEC, Islamabad
3. Prof. Dr. Azam Ali Khwaja, Managing Director (QAA), HEC, Islamabad
4. Ms. Fakiha Zafar, Program Coordinator (QAA), HEC, Islamabad
5. Ms. Tahreem Aslam, Training Coordinator (QAA), HEC, Islamabad
6. Mr. Amjad Hussain, Office Manager (QAA), HEC, Islamabad
7. Air Commodore (R) Muhammad Ismail, National University of Science and Technology, Rawalpindi
8. Mr. Mohammed Taimur Khan, University of Peshawar, Peshawar
9. Prof. Dr. Abdul Nabi, University of Balochistan, Quetta
10. Mr. Abdul Khaliq Ali Zai, University of Balochistan, Quetta
11. Dr. Anwar- ul- Hassan, Agriculture University, Faisalabad
12. Dr. Mohammed Sajiddin, University of Karachi, Karachi
13. Prof. Dr. Ghulam Abbas Anjum, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore
14. Mr. Ibn-e-Hassan, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore
15. Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmed, University of Punjab, Lahore
16. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Ahmed, University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Muzafarabad
17. Mr. Humayun Khan, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad
18. Dr. M. Daud Awan, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad
19. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Afzal, NWFP Agriculture University, Peshawar
20. Dr. Muhammad Bashir, University of Sargodha, Sargodha
21. Dr. Abdul Wahid Usmani, Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi
22. Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Mazhar, Bahauddin Zikriya University, Multan
23. Mr. Mohsin Bashir, Government College University, Faisalabad
24. Mr. Qazi Muhammad Saleem, NWFP University of Engineering and Technology, Peshawar
25. Prof. Dr. Mansoor M. Khan, NWFP University of Engineering and Technology, Peshawar
26. Mr. Mian Khurram S. Azam, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad
27. Mr. Sarfaraz Pirzada, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Islamabad
28. Dr. M. Rafiq Baloch, Balochistan University of Information Technology and Management Sciences, Quetta
29. Mr. Hidayat Ullah Khan, Kohat University of Science and Technology, Kohat
30. Prof. Dr. Naheed Zia Khan, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi

31. Prof. Dr. M. Aslam Uqaili, Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Jamshoro
32. Ms. Maryam Masoom Shah, FRONTIER Women University, Peshawar
33. Prof. Dr. Riaz Ahmad, University of Arid Agriculture, Rawalpindi
34. Mr. Akbar Rahmatullah, Government College University, Lahore
35. Ms. Iram Sohail, Government College University, Lahore
36. Prof. Dr. Mahmood Memon, Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering, Science & Technology, Nawabshah
37. Mr. Asif Ali Shah, Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam
38. Dr. M. Aleem, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore
39. Mr. Dawar Hameed Mughal, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore
40. Mr. Muhammad Naeem Butt, University of Gujrat, Gujrat (by invitation)

1.2 Representatives from University of Sindh and Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences could not attend the meeting.

2 Vice Chancellor, Punjab University Lahore being the host of the meeting in his welcoming speech appreciated the role of the Quality Enhancement Cells in helping to improve the standards of education and assured of full cooperation of Punjab University. He stressed upon the need of continuous efforts from all stakeholders towards achieving the goal of quality education.

2.1 Prof. Dr. Azam Ali Khwaja, Managing Director (QAA) said that Pakistan is one of the pioneers of the concept of establishment of the Quality Enhancement Cells in universities solely dedicated to ensure the quality of education in the institutions. All involved in maintaining high standards in education are observing the activities and progress being made by HEC in this regard. Quality Enhancement Cells introduced at the universities are making slow but steady progress towards achieving quality assurance. He informed that by July 2008 another 15 QEC's will be established to broaden the spectrum of QA activities. The onus is on all of us to make these Quality Assessment processes as successful.

2.2 Dr. Riaz Hussain Qureshi, Adviser (QA&LI) briefed that basically quality assurance is the responsibility of the head of department of respective/ concerned universities. We have launched this concept of QEC's with the notion that this cell will work solely to facilitate the departments and to strengthen the internal processes of the system. When we initiated the process, we were faced with four major challenges i.e. sensitizing the concept, capacity building, determining the levels of quality and monitoring. QEC's are now well aware of the usefulness of the system. Our aim now should be to utilize the feedback obtained from self assessment exercises for improving the standards.

2.3 During the meeting, Prof. Dr. Abdul Raouf, Chairman of Quality Assurance Committee appreciated the work of the Quality Enhancement Cells. He said that it's a big achievement that the institutions have accepted and adapted the concept. He accentuated on the usefulness of the process. Quality is basically for the

convenience of the institutions so as to achieve the international standards. He also stressed on the importance of public awareness and said that the QEC's should give due importance to their websites so that dissemination of quality parameters raises awareness amongst all the stakeholders.

2.4 The two days meeting was divided into four sessions chaired by Advisor (QA & LI), Dr. Mohammed Sajiddin, Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmed and Air Commodore (R) Muhammad Ismail respectively. 27 QEC's presented the assessment report of model department/s, the program outcomes of the evaluation of the model department/s as well as the measures adopted to address the shortcomings were also briefed.

2.5 Some other issues discussed were:-

- A matrix similar to that of NUST may be used by the universities for the Self Assessment Cycle.
- Those QEC's who have yet to achieve the desired level of progress may do so at the earliest. In this regard there was a general agreement that HEC or any QEC head are available to provide help if needed.

2.6 The QEC's requested that HEC should provide plagiarism software to the universities.

2.7 QEC's should fully utilize the funds released to them and complete the purchase of equipment

Decision 2.8: It was decided that the release of the second installment of funds to the QEC's will be completed by April 2008 but prior to that the QEC's must submit their audited budget utilization reports.

Decision 2.9: It was decided that the QEC's must submit the complete assessment report of the model department in the eleventh meeting of QEC's and the first draft of the assessment reports of at least three other departments.

2.10 The coordination of Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad for organizing the meeting in Punjab University was acknowledged by the house.

The meeting ended with mutual thanks.

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