Institutional Performance Evaluation

The Islamia University, Bahawlpur

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION ISLAMABAD

Background of IPES Review Process

The visit to Islamia University Bahawalpur was conducted on 19th – 20th November, 2013 on the basis of following eight IPE Standards i.e. Mission and Goals, Planning and Evaluation, Organization and Governance, Faculty, Students, Institutional Resources, Academic Programs & Curricula and Assessment & Quality Assurance. Prior to the team visit, the university provided to HEC the University Portfolio Report (UPR) which was prepared based on the guidelines provided to them by HEC. This also included a series of answers to the questions related to each of the eight selected standards. During the visit to the university the Review Panel saw the infrastructural facilities, acquainted itself with the institutional resources and held discussions with the faculty members, administrative officials and students. The well prepared UPR facilitated the job of the Review Panel to the great extent.

Efforts put in the preparation of the UPR and cooperation extended by all administrative and academic officials, especially the focal person. Vice Chancellor's extended meeting with the Panel and elaborate discussion on the matters relating to uplift the functioning of the university and enhancing the quality of teaching and research was appreciable.

IPES Review Panel was comprised of following members.

- Prof. Dr. Zubair Siddique
  Director QEC
  Government College University, Faisalabad

- Prof. Dr. A. Razak Mahar
  Director QEC
  Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur

- Prof. Muhammad Farooq
  Director QEC
  Bahauddin Zikriya University, Multan

- Mr. Muhammad Shoaib
  Project Director Quality Assurance Agency
  Higher Education Commission, Islamabad

1. Mission Statement and Goals

1.1 Commendation

- The university has put considerable amount of efforts while crafting its mission.

1.2 Findings

- The mission statement of university is quite generic and can be adopted by any educational institute without making many changes.

1.3 Recommendations

- The university should consider reviewing its mission statement to make it more specific; while carrying out this activity, the university may take on board all the stakeholders.

2. Planning and Evaluation

2.1 Commendation

- Currently a project for enhancement of library is under execution. It will bring tremendous improvement in current library facility.

2.2 Findings

- There are no SOPs developed for integration of QA reports into the future planning of University.

2.3 Recommendations

- There is a need to develop SOPs for integration of QA reports into future planning of the University. The liaison between QEC and Planning & Development department office may be extended and defined to integrate the QEC's recommendations.

3. Organization and Governance

3.1 Commendation

- There are more than 70 degree programs offered by the 37 department/constitute colleges of the university.
- The IUB has comprehensive regulations for examination system and has formulated number of committees to ensure integrity of the examination system.

3.2   Findings

- Some of the departments are being chaired by assistant professors; this is not in compliance with the university's act.

3.3   Recommendations

- The university should look into this matter, as per the university's act assistant professor cannot chair a department and this should be followed.

4.   Faculty

4.1   Commendation

- Faculty Development mechanism (short-term and long term) exist in the university.

4.2   Findings

- There is no training conducted for newly inducted faculty regarding the examination rules and marking criteria.
- In some of the departments there are no faculty members available at the level of professor and / or associate professor.

4.3   Recommendations

- In semester system the grading lies on the integrity of the examiner, it is therefore proposed that newly inducted faculty members should be trained for examination marking to avoid inflation examination grading and create harmony in examination marking system.
- It is recommended that efforts may be made to induct senior faculty so that each department be headed by a full professor and sufficient number of associate and assistant professors are available in the departments for provision of quality education and mentoring to the junior/fresh faculty.

5.   Students

5.1   Commendation

- The students were generally satisfied with the available resources and facilities.

5.2 Findings

- Some of the students were not aware about the prevailing rules and regulations of the university, as they are not properly communicated to them.
- Some students were complaining that the university is unnecessarily delaying the proceedings of Ph.D. programs that include conduction of course work, conduction of comprehensive exam and approval of thesis synopsis.

5.3 Recommendations

- The university may consider designing a well maintained students' handbook, which should be circulated to all enrolled students. Also various medium of communication should be used to enhance the awareness of students regarding rules & regulations and other necessary information.
- The university should take appropriate steps to eliminate unnecessary delays in conduction of Ph.D. programs activities.

6. Institutional Resources

6.1 Commendation

- The university has established good medical care services.
- The university has built a good library, with considerably good number of books available there. The facility of digital library provided is also commendable.
- The university has provided good hostel facilities.
- The transport facility is adequate with respect to the enrolled students.

6.2 Findings

- The university's website is not properly maintained and updated.
- There is shortage of subscribed journals, as a result for some fields there are quite a few number of hard copies of journals available in the library.
- There is no dedicated space in departments for graduate students that is hindering in conduction of smooth research.

6.3   Recommendations

- The university may consider maintaining its website in more effective manner; the website should be updated, in all respects.
- The university may consider enhancing the availability of journals.
- The university may consider providing dedicated sitting spaces for graduate students for conducting their research related activities.

7.   Academic Programs and Curricula

7.1   Commendation

- The academic courses and programs are designed by the respective Chairperson of the department keeping in view the aims and objectives of the programs and the university.
- The courses and programs are also designed on the basis of the need of the nation and local community.
- The following steps are involved in the approval of academic courses and programs and same procedure is applicable in case revision is required as stated by the Assistant Registrar.
    - ➢ Step 1: Board of studies proposes the program, discipline, courses and related curricula for further processing.
    - ➢ Step 2: Proposal of BOS is submitted to the academic Council for debate and discussion and minutes are recorded.
    - ➢ Step 3: If academic Council recommends the proposal of BOS then final approval is accorded by the syndicate, otherwise.

7.2   Findings

- The frequency of revision for curricula is not defined by the university.
- The changes in the curricula are dealt in the same process as for the approval of new curricula that involves BOS, Academic Council and Syndicate and take lot of time and efforts.
- The teaching methodologies are encouraged to be diverse keeping in view the requirements of the subject or courses. However there is no specific strategy for identifying specific courses.

7.3 Recommendations

- It is suggested that all updated curricula may be maintained properly by a specific officer/official and record should be easily traceable. The revision of curricula should be done as per the recommendation of HEC, i.e. at least after every 3 years.
- It may be helpful if revision process is simplified so that revision in curricula is encouraged.
- The university may identify some courses having specific mode of knowledge transfer and then method of delivery may devised accordingly.

8. Assessment & Quality Assurance

8.1 Commendation

- The University has established Directorate of Alumni incorporating at 4 different locations.
- The QEC has established Performa 7 for Alumni survey. The data of local Alumni have been analyzed and it is a very positive step in the right direction.
- The Process of Self-Assessment has been described perfectly in accordance with the flow chart guided by HEC.
- During 2009-2012, Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC), Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council (PVMC) visited the university. The university has got accredited most of the academic programs except the Programs offered by Department of Management Sciences and Department of Computer Sciences & Information Technology that are under process for accreditation.
- QEC of the University has scored 72% in QEC Ranking 2013, conducted by HEC.

8.2 Findings

- The Provision of Budget is available as recurring budget for QEC official's salaries only; there is no budget provision for conduction of any QA related activity.
- In case of Graduating student survey, Performa has been designed by the QEC, limited survey in the departments where Self-Assessment Process is in progress. However, the magnitude of data is not clear, bench marks have not been established, areas of improvement have not been identified as a result respective departments are unable to

take appropriate measure. It is worth to mention that efforts of QEC are praiseworthy in this regards but needs more attention.

- The Employer Survey has not been initiated by the university but it has been planned by the Directorate of Alumni.
- The compliance rate of SARs (corrective measures proposed by Assessment Team of the program) is observed slow.
- QEC conducted a series of Capacity Building workshops/ orientation sessions for only faculty members of the University.
- The university has formulated a Plagiarism Committee under the chair of Vice-Chancellor. It is observed that this year no plagiarism case appeared before the committee. It mean that system may not be encouraging to the plagiarism cases. It is not clear how M.Phil. / Ph.D. thesis are checked by the Plagiarism committee. Self-checking of Plagiarism may create doubt on the credibility of the originality of the work.

8.3   Recommendations

- The budget provision of the following QA activities may be extended for QEC;
  - o   For organization of Capacity Building workshops.
  - o   For organization of Orientation Sessions on Quality Assurance.
  - o   For participation in Conference and attending of meetings on QA matters at national and international level.
  - o   For Acquiring Memberships of QA bodies.
  - o   For Training and Development of QEC officials.

- There is a need to develop SOPs for integration of QA reports into future planning of the University. The liaison between QEC and Planning & Development department office may be extended and defined to integrate the QEC's recommendations.
- Regarding Graduating Students Survey, bench marks are required to be established indicating the excellent, satisfactory and week areas for improvement for the guidance of the respective departments.

- The Employer survey is third party evaluation of the graduating student who are employed and it is one of the best way to judge the quality of education. Therefore, university should take appropriate steps to conduct Employer survey.
- Responsible bodies like the offices of the Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Treasurer, Controller Examination, Director Information Technology and other Principals officer of the University may take the proposed corrective actions for Quality Enhancement on priority basis under the rules of the university.
- The frequency of orientation sessions on QEC working should be extended to the students at all level as well, along with the faculty members. Moreover training of young faculty members on teaching and research methodology may be executed by the QEC.