

Communications Academic Capacity Building Program in Dubai

Training Dates: October 10-17, 2016

Location: American University in Dubai (AUD), Dubai, UAE

Overview:

This academic capacity building programs/visit is part of the partnership between Kabul and Balkh Universities and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). Through this partnership, the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), as U.S. partner institution, will assist both Kabul and Balkh University in establishing a new Departments of Communication.

Dubai training program was part of our third country training initiatives that are planned in lieu of the Afghan faculty's visit to the United States. Both Afghan and American faculty meet at a third country location such as Dubai for trainings and meetings.

Part of the activities at AUD were observing relevant classes and possible meetings or discussion with AUD professors. The total number of expected participants both from Afghanistan and the United States were 19 people.



Our Dubai program covered the following topics.

1. Classroom observations
2. NCA learning outcomes
3. Careers in communications for Afghans

4. Discussion of classes for the first year: perspectives, interpersonal, persuasion, small group, intercultural
5. Professional development-interview KU/BU faculty
6. Info. on scholarships
7. Goals and objectives of partnerships
8. Title IX presentation
9. Accreditation-mild accreditation standards and monitoring progress
10. Long term communication channels-set up regular skype sessions
11. List of courses from US and KU/BU
12. Discussion of courses @ KU/BU
13. Books/syllabi
14. Learning assessment methods
15. Assessment standards
16. Continues monitoring of academic progress



Communication is a new field in Afghanistan with unique opportunities for growth since it has not been part of the higher education curriculum in any Afghani University. However, Afghan University does have mass communication as a degree program, Communication as degree program training Afghan students in human communication is a newer degree program to be established in Kabul and Balkh Universities.

Training purpose:

The purpose of this academic training in Dubai was to assist Kabul and Balkh University faculty start the initial academic and administrative programs and activities required to establish department of Communication at their respective universities. The agenda for this training included, discussions about policy documents, curriculum development, discussion about learning material, and faculty development.

UNO team members offered power point presentations and lead discussions concerning the topics mentioned above.



Activities:

Challenges:

Operating in a third country has many challenges since it requires both groups to acquire visas and arrange travel to a third location. American faculty members were able to visit Dubai with no problems, however, the Afghan faculty had problems in acquiring visas. Only two of the Afghan faculty members could travel to Dubai. As a result, all of the goals of this training were not achieved.

UNO could conduct only four sessions and two visits to American University at Dubai for only two Afghan faculty members.

Next steps:

We will prepare for the next trip to India. This seminar will be two weeks long and the goal is to cover the topics that were not covered in this trip and to add more relevant information for the Afghan faculty. We will also continue the regular monthly skype calls and continue our weekly communication via email.

Week 1						
Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Oct. 7, 2016 US. team departs Omaha	Oct. 8, 2016 US. team arrives Dubai	Oct. 9, 2016 Kabul team arrives Dubai	Oct. 10, 2016 9:00 am Discussion of itinerary and changes Chris 9:30 Remarks by Mary M. Tour of AUD campus and facilities 10:30 Break 10:45 Curriculum Development Master Planning Chris 12:00 Lunch and prayer time 1:00 Discussion of NCA learning outcomes Hugh Careers in Communication Hugh and Chris 2:45 Break 3:00 Discussion of KU/BU learning outcomes Chris 5:00 End 6:00 Opening Banquet Holly and Abbie depart Omaha	Oct. 11, 2016 9:00 This day is devoted to classroom observation and discussion A more definitive schedule for the day will be developed when course times and topics are determined. Distribution of computers Sher Jan, Anwari 12:00 Lunch and Prayer time 1:00 Discussion of morning sessions Chris and Hugh Discussion of curriculum at KU and BU – Breakout sessions Chris and Hugh 2:45 Break 3:00 Discussion continues 5:00 End	Oct. 12, 2016 9:00 am Introduction to Communication/ Perspectives in Communication Abbie 10:15 Break 10:30 Curriculum coaching session Hugh, Holly, Abbie, Chris 12:00 Lunch and prayer time 1:30 Public speaking Holly 2:45 Break 3:00 Small Group and Leadership Holly and Abbie 5:00 End	Oct. 13, 2016 8:30 Interpersonal communication Abbie and Holly 10:15 Break 10:15 Argumentation and Debate Abbie 12:00 Lunch and prayer time 1:00 Faculty development Holly 2:30 Break 2:45 Curriculum coaching Hugh, Holly, Abbie, Chris 4:30 Mid-point check for progress Chris 5:00 End

Week 2						
Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday			
Oct. 14, 2016	Oct. 15, 2016	Oct. 16, 2016	Oct. 17, 2016			
8:30 Communication for business and the professions Holly	9:00 am Books and syllabi and translation Chris, Hugh, Sher Jan	9:00 am Admission policies Hugh	10:15 Break			
9:45 Break	10:15 Break	10:30 Long term and on-going communication between BU, KU and UN) Chris, Sher Jan, Hugh				
10:00 Curriculum coaching session Hugh, Holly, Abbie, Chris	10:30 Assessment standards Chris and Hugh					
11:30 End	12:00 Lunch and prayer time	12:00 Lunch and prayer time				
12:00 Prayer and mosque	1:00 pm Setting educational standards and monitoring them Hugh	1:00 Discussion of goals and objectives for remainder of grant and India conference agenda Chris and Sher Jan				
	2:45 Break					
	3:00 Checking our progress in this conference Chris, Sher Jan	3:00 End				
	5:00 End	6:00 Closing dinner and concluding remarks US Team departs Dubai	US Team arrives Omaha			

Agenda Change Highlights:

Monday 10:45, now Curriculum Development Master Planning

Monday 1:00 NCA Learning Outcomes now combined with Careers in Curriculum

Discussion of KU/BU learning outcomes now moved to Monday 3:00

Monday 6:00 Opening banquet

Tuesday 1:00 Discussion of Morning Session now transitions into discussion of discussion of KU and BU curriculum break-out session which continues after the break

Wednesday 10:30 becomes a curriculum coaching session

Wednesday 3:00 becomes Small Group and Leadership. Gender and Equality is dropped

Thursday 2:45 becomes a curriculum coaching session.

Thursday 4:30 added a mid-point check-up to see that needs are being met

Friday 4:00 becomes curriculum coaching session

Saturday 3:00 becomes another check-in for progress to see if BU/KU needs are being met

Sunday 9:00 Admission policies moves to here

Sunday 10:30 Long-term and on-going communication moves to here

Sunday 1:00 Discussion of goals and objectives for remainder of grant moves to here

Sunday 6:00 closing banquet

We may not need four curriculum sessions (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday), but it does break up the days and involves the KU/BU faculty in discussion and tasks.

We may need to find a place to reinstate Gender and equality.

Depending on UNO Team departure, the banquet may need to move earlier.

Monday is really packed, but I want to get foundations laid before we begin curriculum discussions.

Tuesday is pure speculation. It depends on what arrangements AUD can make for observing classes.

I still need to find a place to work in at least a brief discussion of gender equality issues.