



Screenshot taken during the QAC meeting on 17 December 2020. Photo: IQAC-ULAB

Quality Assurance Committee Convened

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh convened for the eleventh time its Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) on 17 December 2020 using Google Meet. The main agenda of the meeting were: updates of WURI Ranking, updates of QAC Ranking and QS Ranking, Quality Management System Information: Graduate Exit Survey Spring 2020 and Graduate Employability Survey 2019-2020. Vice Chancellor Professor H M Jahirul Haque acted as QAC Chair. The Chair started the meeting with welcoming the members of the committee and he approved the last meeting minutes without any changes. The meeting continued following the stated agenda. One highlight of the meeting was

the presented of the ULAB Graduate Employability Survey 2020. The main objective of the survey is to investigate the graduate's employment profile, perception of the relevancy/effectiveness of ULAB's teaching-learning in their career, ratio and reasons for unemployment, and plans for their future. 186 undergraduate and 16 graduate alumni who passed between November 2019 and August 2020 were interviewed. The results showed that 38.6 percent of respondents were employed at the time of the survey while 6.9 percent were having own business, 15.3 percent were pursuing higher studies and 39.1 percent were still looking for jobs.

ULAB IQAC Director Presents Paper in Macao Conference

The Macao Polytechnic Institute organized the 12th Higher Education International Conference on Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in Education on 25 and 26 November 2020. The keynote session held on the first day had four speakers: (1) Mr. Douglas Blackstock, Chief Executive Officer, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education; (2) Professor Ronghuai

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Participants of UGC Virtual Workshop Series.

Photo: University Grants Commission Bangladesh

UGC Holds Series of Virtual Workshops

The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) organized three batches of virtual workshops with teachers from public and private universities. The first and second batches were for Public Universities conducted on 23-25 November and 26-28 November while the third batch was for Private Universities held on 29 November-1 December. The workshop was entitled: Are your students engaged?, which looked at student active learning

processes in online education. Professor Dr. Yousuf Mahbubul Islam, Dean, School of Engineering, Technology and Sciences, Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) facilitated the workshops. The main discussion points were: how to launch an online class, how to receive students' feedback, how to get students to ask questions, how to engage online students in peer teaching, and how to get students involved in online activities/active learning. IQAC Director Prof. Jude William Genilo, IQAC Additional Director Wazir Ahmad and CETL Director Mohammad Tareque Rahman attended the workshop.



WURI Application Submission

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh successfully submitted on 31 December 2020 five applications to the World's Universities with Real Impact (WURI) Ranking. The five innovations submitted were on the categories: Industrial Applications(1), Ethical Value (1), Entrepreneurial Spirit (2) and Crisis Management (1). The Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) organized a workshop on the WURI application template on 2 December with the application writers. IQAC Director Prof. Jude William Genilo conducted the workshop. It can be recalled that on 11 June 2020 WURI Project Leader Professor MOON Hwy-Chang announced that ULAB is among the top 50 universities in the world under the "Industrial Applications" category. ULAB's entry to the WURI Ranking for innovative and creative approaches with regard to industrial applications is the thesis of the Masters in Communication program offered by the Media Studies and Journalism Department.

ULAB Participates in THE Impact Rankings

The University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh participated in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking. The application document was submitted on 30 November 2020 while the results are expected in April 2021. The ranking judges a university's contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. When Times Higher Education (THE) initiated the Impact Rankings - the first global attempt to measure university progress around the SDGs - ULAB saw this as an opportunity to highlight the great work that it has done. The ULAB THE Impact Ranking committee was headed by Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Director Prof. Jude William Genilo. The members included: Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) Director Dr. Samiya Selim, CSD Visiting Research Fellow Dr. Haseeb Md. Irfannullah, Center for Critical and Qualitative Studies (CQD) Director Prof. Sumon Rahman, Center of Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) Director Mohammad Tareque Rahman, and Center for Enterprise and Society (CES) Director Mr. Sajid Amit.

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Huang, Dean of Smart Learning Institute, Beijing Normal University; (3) Professor Sonny Shiu- Hing Lo, Deputy Director, School of Professional and Continuing Education, The University of Hong Kong; and (4) Professor Jianxin Zhang, President, Asia Pacific Quality Network.

Four parallel sessions were held on the second day - 26 November 2020. Prof. Jude William Genilo, Director, Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh presented a paper in the first parallel session. The paper was entitled: "Responses to the Pandemic: Institutional Quality Assurance Cells in Bangladesh". The paper documents the responses of the Institutional Quality Assurance Cells (IQACs) in Bangladesh to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. It highlights the government's efforts to ensure quality education, particularly in utilizing IQACs in the various public and private universities. The paper starts with the pandemic situation in the country, followed by the overall responses of the government, including its directives regarding the conduct of higher education. With the mandated shift to full online learning, the paper discusses the efforts of IQACs to ensure quality online education utilizing as framework the Sloan Consortium's Five Pillars of Quality Online Learning - learning effectiveness, student satisfaction, teacher satisfaction, scale and access.

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