



Participants of CETL Seminar on Global University Ranking pose for a group photo. Photo: CETL-ULAB

CETL Seminar on Global University Ranking

ULAB Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) and General Education Department (GED) jointly organized a seminar on 'Global University Rankings and Implications for Quality Assurance' on 23 February 2020 at the permanent campus. The seminar was conducted by Dr. Riyad A. Shahjahan, Associate Professor of Higher Education at Michigan State University. Quality Assurance (QA) has become an important policy issue, institutional practice and a concern for study in the field of higher education. Institutions are looking for various tools to ensure and demonstrate quality in both their inputs and outputs. The role of QA in the global competition fetish of higher education institutions can no longer be ignored. Within this context, this talk interrogated the growing role of global QA practices and critically probed into the underlying assumptions of such practices in a globalized context. Dr. Mohammad Tareque Rahman, Associate Professor and Director CETL, Professor Imran Rahman, Dean ULAB School of Business and about fifteen other academics from different departments of ULAB participated in this seminar.

Engineering, MSJ Formulates Assessment of Learning Manual

The School of Engineering and the Media Studies and Journalism Department have formulated their respective Assessment of Learning Manuals. The said manuals contain the following sections: Assessment Strategies, Grade Weight Distribution, Written Sit-in Tests, Practical and other Examinations, Course Closing Forms, Grading System and Grade Grievance Procedures. Aside from these, the manuals provide rules relating to test construction, common test types and alternative test method. It also provides forms relating to Table of Specifications (TOS), Exam Moderation and Project Briefs.

The other academic departments are still in the process of finalizing their respective manuals. The assigned point persons include: Arifa Rahman (DEH), Afsana Anjum (GED), Muhammad Hasibul Hasan and Wazir Ahmad (USB) and Habibur Rahman (Exam Controller).



UGC Consultation Meeting led by UGC Chairman Professor Kazi Shahidullah. Photo: UGC

UGC Consultation Meeting Held

The Strategic Planning Unit of University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh organized a Consultation Workshop entitled “Status of IQAC in the Private Universities: Ways to Step Forward” on 28 January and 3 February 2020. Among 105 universities, 45 attended on 30 January while the rest attended on 3 February. ULAB Vice Chancellor Prof. H M Jahirul Haque and Additional Director of IQAC Wazir Ahmad attended the workshop on 28 January. Prof. Muhammed Alamgir, UGC Member delivered the welcome remarks where Prof. Kazi Shahidullah, UGC Chairman was present as Chief Guest. Dr. Sultan Mahmud Bhuiyan, UGC Director for Strategic Planning and Quality Assurance made a presentation on the role of UGC for the functioning of IQACs where he summarized Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) activities. It was revealed that there are only 38 private universities left

with functioning IQACs. The experience of North South University (NSU) and Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) regarding their respective IQACs were shared. Prof. Sanjoy Adhikary, Member of Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC) also made a short presentation.

The session was followed by an open discussion session which will be summarized by an expert panel of five members including Wazir Ahmad, Additional Director of ULAB IQAC. Points to take away are:

The three things UGC will emphasize are: campus and facilities, two semesters in a year system and President appointed VC, PVC and Treasurer.

Strategic Planning Unit is actively considering allowing PhD program for private universities.

A format of Outcome-Based Education (OBE) curriculum will be circulated soon.

UGC is going to design a mandatory training program for university teachers.

Private universities need to be careful about the ‘pitfalls of accreditation.’

Online Teacher, Course Evaluation in Spring Term 2020

The ULAB Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) has decided on 2 March 2020 to replace the current manual teacher and course evaluation to an automated one. The decision came after receiving word of the success of the pilot stage of the proposed Online Teacher and Course Evaluation. Last 9 and 11 December 2019, the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) together with the software

company Value Plus conducted a pilot test with Batches 191 and 183 of the Media Studies and Journalism Department.

The Online Teacher and Course Evaluation would minimize class disruptions and reduce manpower requirements for this exercise. Through this system, students can conduct evaluation by logging into the University Resource Management System (URMS). The IQAC is preparing the guidelines for the new system, which is expected to take place before the pre-registration period in April.

BAC Rules and Guidelines Presented

The Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC) presented last 12 February 2020 to the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Directors of the various universities the draft vis-à-vis the Rules on Bangladesh Accreditation Council Certificate 2019. According to them, a certificate of accreditation is given after the examination of the curriculum and activities of an academic program of a higher education institution. The said academic program shall be assessed whether it is in accordance with quality assurance standards and national qualifications framework.

The Rules include stipulations regarding the eligibility of applicants, accreditation procedures, accreditation committee formation and obligations, academic audit and assessment, rules on appeal, conditions on certification, revocation of certification and re-accreditation. The accreditation procedure typically involves a review of documents, site visit and post site assessment. After the accreditation committee has submitted its report, it shall undergo a review by an Expert Committee.

BAC Secretary Dr. AQM Shafiqul Azam moderated the session while BAC Members Prof. SM Kabir and Prof. Sanjoy Kumar Adhikary discussed the Rules on Accreditation, Accreditation Council and Appeals.

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