



INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL (IQAC)



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Successful Completion of External Peer Review of Six Programmes of North South University

The external peer review of self-assessment process of the six departments of North South University (NSU) successfully completed between October 08 and November 06, 2017. The six departments are Accounting and Finance, Management, Political Science and Sociology, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Biochemistry and Microbiology and Pharmaceutical Sciences. A team of three external peer reviewers comprising of one foreign QA expert, one local QA expert and one local subject expert was responsible for the review process of each department.



Prof. Ahasanul Haque, Professor of Marketing, International Islamic University Malaysia, Professor Dr. B V Babu, Former Vice-Chancellor of Graphic Era University and Galgotias University of India and Prof. Dr. Sivali Ranawana, Program & Project Reviewer, UGC, Sri Lanka reviewed the six departments as foreign experts, each reviewing two departments. The local reviewers included: Professor Dr. Enayet Hossain from Rajshahi University, Dr. Mohammad Ashraful Alam from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet and Prof. Dr. Mohsharraf Hossain from Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology. Besides them, there was a group of six subject experts chosen by the respective departments and included: Professor Jahangir Alam from Chittagong University, Dr. Ferdous Sarwar and Dr. Md. Aynal Haque from BUET, and Dr. Mobasher Monem, Dr. Ishtiaq Mahmud and Dr. Md. Aslam Hossain from Dhaka University.



Each EPR team took three days to complete the EPR process of each department. During these days, the team attended a series of meetings with the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro-Vice Chancellor (designate), the Treasurer, the Registrar, the Proctor, the Deputy Exam Controller, the Librarian, the Directors of IT and Operations & Maintenance. It also sat with the Deans, the SACs, the IQAC Officials, academic & non-academic staffs, students, employers and alumni. The team also visited some physical facilities of the campus including auditorium, gymnasium, canteen, central computer centre, library, classrooms and laboratories. A cultural program was also organized by the students for the EPR team.



Towards the end of each department's review, the EPR team handed over an exit report to IQAC. The EPR team will send a final External Peer Review Report within 21 days upon which the SACs will further work on its improvement plan for their respective department. The peer reviewers applauded the SAC members and the IQAC for their dedication shown throughout the review process.



QAU Meets NSU IUB Students

A two-member team from the Quality Assurance Unit, HEQEP, UGC visited NSU campus on 9th November, 2017 to exchange views with students on the National Qualifications Framework of Bangladesh (NQFB). They met a selected number of students of NSU and IUB at the Syndicate Hall of NSU at 11 AM. Dr. Ahmed Tazmeen, QA Specialist of QAU made a presentation on the NQFB. He focused on the purpose of the framework, five main pillars of the framework and how this framework benefits the students of higher education institutions in Bangladesh. After the presentation, students took part in a lively Q&A session where Prof Dr.



Sanjoy Kumar Adhikary, Head of QAU responded to many critical questions of the students. The participating students also submitted their written feedback on the NQFB. In the end of the session, Dr. Nazmun Nahar, Director, IQAC, NSU thanked the students for their enthusiastic participation.

‘Outcome-based Education, Teaching & Assessment Strategy’

A day-long training program was organized by IQAC on ‘Outcome-based Education, Teaching & Assessment Strategy’ for faculty members of SEPS on Thursday, 9th November, 2017 at Faculty Lounge of North South University. Dr. Arshad M. Chowdhury, Dean, School of Engineering and Physical Sciences (SEPS) and Professor, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering (ECE), NSU was the facilitator of the training session.



Thirty five faculty members participated in this training program. The training began with a welcome address by Dr. Nazmun Nahar, Director, IQAC, NSU. Dr. Arshad M. Chowdhury, in his presentation, discussed several topics including introduction to outcome-based education, definition of course outcome, ways to assess course outcome and program outcome.

It was an interactive session and participants found the training very fruitful.

IQAC Sponsored Workshops

Focus group discussion with the Alumni by department of English and Modern Languages

Department of English & Modern Languages Self-Assessment Committee (SAC) hosted an Alumni Meeting on the 14th of October 2017. The meeting took place from 11 am to 3:30 pm, in the Syndicate Hall. With the presence of the Dean of SHSC, Chair of DEML, and the DEML SAC members, the meeting had a vibrant focus group discussion, where DEML's own Alumni was the major stakeholder. The Alumni engaged a lively conversation regarding the Department's performances, strengths, and weaknesses in various aspects. The alumni also answered to various questions that the SAC team threw at the table, consequently sparking more ideas and issues, and recommendations for the Department.



Focus Group Discussion on “Career Prospects for English Graduates” by IQAC at the Department of English and Modern Languages

The Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) organized a three-pronged conversation on the 11th of November 2017, with three major stakeholders of the entity at the Department of English and Modern Languages. The panel discussion took place from 11 am to 3:30 pm, in the Syndicate Hall. The three stakeholders were current professionals in various esteemed and diverse positions with degrees in English,

employers of the graduates with English majors, and the current students studying at the department. The number of attendees reached beyond eighty, and it was a treat for the DEML Chairman and the SAC team. The event broke one of the biggest stereotypes that assume that the career prospect for English major is solely limited to teaching. The current students met and spoke to both the diverse selection of professionals and employers present at the panel. It all ended with a huge bunch of freshly inspired DEML students and a proud group of panelists who shared their professional cards with the students for further networking.



Workshop on: ‘Interaction among Stakeholders’ by Dept. of Biochemistry & Micro biology

On the 11th day of November, 2017, the Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) organized a day long workshop, titled ‘Interaction among Stakeholders’ at the Department of Biochemistry & Microbiology. The workshop was attended by students of respective department and parents. The workshop began with an overview of Biochemistry and Biotechnology (BBT) and Microbiology (MIC) programs. A video was also shown to demonstrate BBT & MIC programs. Towards the end of the workshop, a few current students of BBT and MIC programs shared their experiences among the stakeholders.



Workshop on “Reviewing the poetry courses in the curriculum” by IQAC at the Department of English and Modern Languages

On Thursday, December 7th 2017, in the Public Policy & Governance Conference Room, IQAC organized a daylong workshop on “Reviewing the poetry courses in the curriculum” at the department of English and Modern Languages with the eminent scholar Dr. Kaiser Haq, former Professor at the Department of English, University of Dhaka. Dr. Kaiser Haq is an eminent poet, essayist, translator and literary critic, based in Dhaka. He is also an editor and serves on the editorial board of a number of noteworthy local publications including Bengal Lights and Six Seasons Review. His poetry has been published in a number of anthologies and collections including A Happy Farewell (1994), Black Orchid (1996) and more recently Pariah and Other Poems (2013).

Meetings:

Monthly Status Update Meeting with SAC Members and Department Chairs

A status update meeting was organized by IQAC on Wednesday, 22nd November, 2017 at the SBE Conference Room of NSU. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Self- assessment Committee (SAC) from departments of Accounting and Finance, Management, Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE),

Biochemistry and Micro biology, Political Science and Sociology and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The Chairman of respective departments also attended the meeting. The meeting was moderated by Dr. Nazmun Nahar, Director of IQAC. In the meeting, the first six SACs, who are already done with their Self-Assessment process, shared their experiences of External Peer Review with IQAC. In the meeting, the first six SACs, who are already done with their Self-Assessment process, shared their experiences of External Peer Review with IQAC. In the meantime, IQAC officials advised them to start working on the improvement plan by taking exit report as a guideline, before they gets the final report from EPR team which will be received within 21 days of self-assessment process of respective departments.



A survey questionnaire for key considerations of establishing an effective IQAC was distributed among the attendees. They were asked to fill it up and send it to IQAC office. There was a question answer session towards the end of the meeting.

Monthly Status Update Meeting with SAC Members

A status update meeting was organized by IQAC on Thursday, 7th December, 2017 at the SEPS Conference Room of NSU. The meeting was attended by the representatives of Self- assessment Committee (SAC) from departments of Environmental Science & Management, Public Health, Marketing & International Business, Economics and English and Modern Languages. The meeting was moderated by Dr. Nazmun Nahar, Director of IQAC. In the meeting, the second six SACs shared their survey status of self-assessment process with IQAC. Dr. Nahar briefly discussed the format of self-assessment report with the SACs and opined them to start taking preparation for upcoming external peer review process which is most likely to be held in February 2018. Moreover, Dr. Sahadet Hossain, Additional Director of IQAC shared the experiences that IQAC had during the previous EPRT visit in October- November of the first six departments.

The SAC members found the meeting very informative. There was a question answer session towards the end of the meeting.



IQAC Seminar on: 'Towards a Disabled Friendly Campus'

IQAC at North South University in collaboration with Physically Challenged Development Foundation (PDF) jointly organized a seminar to celebrate the 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2017' on Thursday, 14th December at the Faculty lounge of NSU. The theme of the seminar was "Towards a Disabled Friendly Campus". The seminar was moderated by Dr. Nazmun Nahar, Director, IQAC. The program began with flute playing by a visually impaired student of Jahangirnagar University, Mr. Matin Miya. Prof. Dr. G.U. Ahsan, Pro Vice Chancellor (Designate) of NSU joined the seminar and briefly discussed the importance of having a disabled friendly campus in his take.



He also announced that the new campus will be 100% accessible to all people with physical disability. Mr. Mizanur Rahman Kiron, Founder and President of Physically Challenged Development Foundation (PDF) who has been working on disabled friendly campus for a long time, facilitated the seminar and spoke about the challenges and success story of their campaign for disabled friendly campus. Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Dean of School of Humanities and Social Sciences, NSU and Dr. Ahmed Tazmeen, Quality Assurance Specialist of HEQEP in UGC were also present and participated in the deliberation. A number of students and faculty members attended the seminar.

Result-sharing Workshop by Department of Marketing & International Business

The Department of Marketing & International Business (MIB) of North South University presented survey findings of self-assessment in a workshop held on Tuesday, 19th December, 2017 at the SBE Dean's Conference Room.



In the workshop, Ms. Fairuze Chowdhury and Mr. Muhammad Riasat Amir, Lecturers of the department and members of Self-Assessment Committee (SAC) discussed the objectives and activities of SAC respectively. While Mr. Mahmud Habib Zaman, Lecturer of the department and SAC Head highlighted the most important survey findings of self-assessment. The Department Chair and faculty members along with IQAC members attended the workshop and shared their observations.

Completion of Training programs on ‘Mastering Effective Communication’ and ‘Team Building & Time Management’ for the final batch of Administrative Staff of NSU

Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), in collaboration with an external training organization Leadership Excellence & Development (LEAD), has organized and successfully completed training programs for the final batch of administrative staff of North South University (NSU).

Twenty eight participants from various administrative units and academic departments of NSU participated and successfully completed the training program comprised of two sessions – October 12 & 19, 2017 on ‘Mastering Effective Communication’ and December 14 & 21, 2017 on ‘Team Building and Time Management’.

The first two sessions on Effective Communication was facilitated by Mr. Ashfaq Zaman and Mr. Mayen Uddin. On the first day, Mr. Ashfaq Zaman, President of LEAD, spoke about importance of communication, public speaking skills, presentation skills, charming personality and ways to create awesome presentations. On the second day of the training, Mr. Mayen Uddin, a professional trainer, particularly focused on developing self-confidence, priority settings and motivation for communication leadership, interpersonal communication skills and networking.



The second two sessions on Team development and time management was conducted by Mr. Yahia Md. Amin. Mr. Yahia, Md. Amin focused on team building through MBTI and tools & techniques of effective time management. Dr. Sayedul Ashraf Kushal, a prominent psychiatrist, in his presentation mentioned several ways of managing stress at home and at workplace.

The sessions were interactive and the participants enjoyed and learned a lot throughout the training programs. Certificates were distributed among participants towards the end of the training session.

Upcoming Activities of IQAC

- 1 Organize Faculty Orientation for Spring on January 2018 jointly with Office of Graduate Studies
- 2 Completion of External Peer Review of SA process of all 12 departments
- 3 Initiate Training on Communication, Student Psychology and Stress Management for Faculty Members
- 4 Supervise development of Improvement Plan for 12 departments
- 5 Organize Office Management Training for non-academic staffs of NSU
- 6 Organize training for Students focusing on Overcoming challenges and better integration in the job sector



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