Successful Completion of External Peer Review of remaining two programmes of North South University

The external peer review of self-assessment process of the last two departments of North South University (NSU) successfully completed between April 03 and April 09, 2018. The two departments are English and Modern Languages and Architecture. 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. Nimal Keerthi Dangalle, Former Chair & Professor of Geography, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka and Mr. M. Arefeen Ibrahim, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Architecture, American Intl. University-Bangladesh reviewed the two departments as foreign expert and local expert respectively. Besides them, there was a group of two subject experts chosen by the respective departments and they included: Prof. Daniul Huq, Former professor of Jahangirnagar University and Dr. Abu Sayeed, Professor, University of Asia Pacific.

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 staff, 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.

Towards the end of each department’s review, the EPR team handed over an exit report to IQAC. The EPR team has already sent a final External Peer Review Report to IQAC upon which the SACs have also started working 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.

With the completion of EPR of these last two departments, IQAC, NSU has completed the review of its twelve departments till date.
Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) organized a series of training programs for faculty members on 29 March, 12 April, 19 April and 10 May, 2018 respectively at the Faculty Lounge of North South University. With the completion of training for this group, NSU IQAC has successfully provided training to three batches of faculty members till now.

A total number of twenty three faculty members from various departments of NSU were randomly selected for this intensive training program. The comprehensive faculty training comprised of 4 modules including: Effective Communication and Delivery, Student Psychology and Academic Fusion, Time Management and Personality Trait Analysis and Stress Management.

On the first day of the training, Mr. Ashfaq Zaman, President, Leadership, Excellence & Development (LEAD), discussed importance of communication & its impact of delivery, public speaking in presentations, Lecture Model, Body Language and Confidence and similar related topics.

On the 2nd day, Mr. Yahia Md. Amin, CEO, LEAD emphasized on cognitive behavior therapy, depression, types of anxiety and panic cycle whereas Mr. Muhammad Munir, Academician, shared his experiences and talked about innovative approach towards education, i.e. cooperative learning. The 3rd module of the training was facilitated by Dr. Asif Zaman, Associate Professor of Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, NSU. In his presentation, he highlighted benefits and importance of Time Management, Pareto’s principle, tracking daily activities, the 80/20 Rule and Delegation. He also shared tools and techniques of effective time management. On the final day, Mr. Yahia Md. Amin, spoke about personality trait analysis through MBTI and Dr. Sayeedul Ashraf, a prominent psychiatrist, particularly talked about various ways to manage stress in workplace and at home.

All the sessions were interactive and the participants enjoyed and learned a lot throughout the training programs. They thanked IQAC for organizing this type of training and suggested to arrange similar trainings in future. IQAC has already started faculty training for the fourth batch. Currently, IQAC is offering the training courses to lecturers and senior lecturers only. IQAC plans to arrange similar training programs for other senior faculty members in future.

A day-long training program was organized by IQAC on ‘Outcome-based Education & Teaching for Active Learning’ for faculty members of SHSS on Wednesday, 18 April, 2018 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) and Dr. Mahbubur Rahman, Associate Professor and Chair of Department of Political Science and Sociology, NSU facilitated the training session.

Twenty two faculty members participated in this training program. The training began with a welcome address by Dr. Nazmun Nahar, Director, IQAC, NSU. Dr. Mahbubur Rahman, in his presentation, described ways for active learning. 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.
A four day-long Faculty Orientation Program for Summer 2018 was jointly organized by Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) and Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of North South University (NSU) on 14 to 17 May, 2018 at the Faculty Lounge of NSU.

The orientation program was inaugurated by the Director of OGS, Prof. Dr. Sharif Nurul Ahkam and Additional Director of IQAC, Dr. Mohammed Sahadet Hossain. Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Atiqul Islam was present at the inaugural session. In his speech, the Hon’ble VC appreciated the joint effort made by IQAC and OGS for organizing this type of orientation program for the newly joined faculty members. Prof. Dr. G.U. Ahsan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Designate) joined the orientation program and briefly discussed the concepts of teaching and development in his take.

The Orientation Program was attended by twenty new faculty members from nine departments. There were different sessions covering topics related to administrative service rule, teaching and research philosophy, effective teaching and assessment methodology, code of conduct, ways of dealing with students, development of course outline, understanding IT Services & Library Resources and work life balance. On the 4th day of the program, a session called Micro Teaching simultaneously took place in 4 schools in which every faculty members were given 5 minutes to teach. The whole session was video recorded and the newly joined faculty members were further assessed and evaluated by the senior teachers.

The sessions were interactive and the participants enjoyed and learned a lot throughout the program.

Department of Mathematics and Physics organized a workshop on Outcome Based Education (OBE) and developing course outlines focusing different levels of Bloom’s Taxonomy on 07 June, 2018 at their departmental conference room. The Additional Director of IQAC, Dr. Mohammad Sahadet Hossain was the speaker of the session. All the faculty members participated in the workshop. Dr. Hossain, in his presentation, discussed all the aspects of out-come based education, and described the way of preparing course outline and course mapping using the guideline of Bloom’s Taxonomy. The session was very interactive and the entire participant found it very helpful. The Chair of the Department Prof. Partha Pratim Dey requested all the course coordinators to prepare their own course outline using the concepts discussed in the workshop and requested Dr. Hossain to follow up the progress in this regards.
On June 28, 2018 (Thursday) ECE department of North South University hosted Outcome Based Education (OBE) Workshop. Prof. Dr. Arshad M Chowdhury, Dean SEPS conducted the workshop at the ECE Conference Room. The faculty members of ECE department attended the workshop. Dr. Arshad mainly focused on the basics of outcome based education, course assessment process, assessment of individual course outcomes (CO) and effect of COs on the program outcomes.

ECE department holds series of OBE workshops every semester to train up its faculty members on outcome based education and strengthen the programs of the department.

**Upcoming Activities of IQAC**

1. Improvement Plan Workshop for Department of Marketing & International Business on 05 July, 2018
2. Meeting with Deans, Department Chairs and SAC Heads on 10 July, 2018
3. Improvement Plan Workshop for Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering on 15 July, 2018
4. Improvement Plan Workshop for Department of Public Health on 26 July, 2018
5. Improvement Plan Workshop for Department of Accounting & Finance on 31 July, 2018
6. Continuation of Faculty Training on: ‘Effective Communication & Delivery’, ‘Time Management’, ‘Student Psychology’ and ‘Personality Trait Analysis & Stress Management’
7. Student Training on ‘Employability Skills Development’ on 13 & 27 July and 3 & 4 August, 2018
8. Training on Customer Service Management for non-academic staff on 21 July, 2018
9. Faculty Training on: ‘Outcome based Education’ for the School of Health and Life Sciences on 29 July, 2018