

Self-Postgraduate Program Review Report June 20-21st, 2024 Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur

9/9/24

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216/2/2024

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Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur, situated in Sindh, Pakistan, is a public-sector university founded in 1986 under the Shah Abdul Latif University (Sindh) Act No. XI of 1986, passed by the Sindh Assembly. The university is empowered to conduct teaching, training, research, and dissemination across various fields of study. It offers a wide array of undergraduate and postgraduate programs and is renowned for its emphasis on research and high-quality education. Serving as a center of academic excellence and cultural heritage in the region, Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur plays a pivotal role in advancing knowledge and nurturing talent.

At the invitation of Shah Abdul Latif University under letter no. NO.ADMN/SALU/KHP/-884 dated May 10, 2024, a team comprising both internal and external reviewers conducted the Annual Self-Postgraduate Program Review (Self-PGPR) for the MS/MPhil & PhD programs at Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur.

Panel of Internal Reviewer(s)

1 Prof. Dr. Ghulam Mustafa Mashori Convener Dean, Faculty of Arts & Languages

2 Prof. Dr. Riaz Ahmed Shaikh Member Deputy Director QEC(ACs)

3 Prof. Dr. Naveed Ahmed Shaikh Member
Director, Postgraduate Studies (PGS)

Member

4 Mr. Nazir Ahmed Mangnejo Member

Registrar

Nawabshah, Shaheed Benazirabad

5 Prof. Dr. Iram Rani Member/Secretary Director QEC

Panel of External Reviewer(s)

1 Dr. Saeed Ahmed Khan External Reviewer
Associate Professor/Director QEC, Sukkur IBA

University
2 Mr. Raheel Noor Chandio External Reviewer
Deputy Director QEC, PUMHSW

Executive Summary

Subject experts/reviewers nominated by Vice Chancellor Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU) visited the University for M.Phil./MS/Equivalent programs review. The visit consisted of 2 days encompassing interaction with senior management, faculty, and administrative staff with physical resonance of classroom, labs and other affiliated facilities. On the first day of the visit, the Director of the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) delivered an in-depth presentation on the compliance status of the last Postgraduate Program Review (PGPR). This presentation meticulously covered all aspects of the compliance measures taken since the previous review. Each action item and recommendation from the last PGPR was discussed, with the Director providing detailed explanations and updates on their implementation status. Following the presentation, the team

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went through the data/information provided by the university and other documentation i.e. program, student file and other relevant policies/records.

Meeting with Dean Faculty of Social Sciences

During the meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, he warmly welcomed the team and acknowledged their commitment to conducting the Self-PGPR of SALU. The dean then proposed the following points for consideration:

- 1. There is a shortage of office and lab spaces.
- 2. There is a shortage of computing machines.
- 3. Faculty teaching postgraduate programs should be provided with laptops for lecture preparation.
- 4. In hot weather, it is difficult to conduct classes; classrooms and labs should be equipped with air conditioning.

Meeting with Faculty

It was please to interact with faculty members and get some insights about the programs, university and infrastructure. The faculty briefed the team and put grievances on following points;

- 1. Insufficient office and workspace.
- 2. Lack of computing machines.
- 3. Extremely hot weather makes it difficult to conduct evening classes in temperatures exceeding 48 degrees Celsius; classrooms and labs should be well-furnished with proper cooling systems.
- 4. Overloaded faculty in a few departments; hiring of fresh faculty is needed.
- 5. Issuance of laptops to postgraduate teaching faculty members from the PM laptop scheme, to be returned to the department after the semester ends, to better prepare for lectures.
- 6. The university should ensure a steady supply of essential chemicals and reagents required by the Natural Science Faculty.

2nd day of onsite visit

Meeting with Director PGS

- 1. Director of Postgraduate Studies (PGS) briefed the team on the operational processes and improvements of the section.
- 2. Reviewed the office setup, space, and resource requirements for the Director-PGS.
- 3. Examined the admission process for postgraduate programs, including student selection criteria and admission timelines.
- 4. Assessed the efficiency and transparency of the application review and selection process.
- 5. Reviewed procedures for thesis submission and evaluation, including criteria and standards for assessing postgraduate theses.
- 6. Discussed the role of external examiners in the thesis review process.

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- 7. Observed the setup and process for conducting open defenses, including scheduling and organization.
- 8. Evaluated feedback mechanisms for students post-defense.

Meeting with Controller office

- 1. Reviewed the organization and maintenance of office records in the Controller's Office.
- 2. Evaluated the security measures in place to protect sensitive documents.
- 3. Discussed improvements for record-keeping processes and data management.
- 4. Discussed the digitalization efforts for record maintenance and retrieval.

Onsite visit of QEC Directorate with Director QEC

- 1. Director QEC to discuss ongoing initiatives and improvements.
- 2. Visited the Affiliated College Section to review operations and collaborations.
- 3. Examined record-keeping practices and discussed enhancements.
- 4. Evaluated initiatives implemented by the QEC for quality enhancement.
- 5. Discussed future strategies and goals for continuous improvement.

The team went through the data/information provided by the university and other documentation i.e. program, student file and other relevant policies/records. The team unfortunately could not meet with the student's due their vacations and unavailability. The files of the faculty members couldn't be arranged and shown to team by the registrar office, in spite of calling multiple time to registrar, the door of his office remain closed. The University has stopped FIS which were suggested by the last PGPR team and has received NOCs of all the programs being offered ion postgraduate studies.

Some Highlight and Positive Aspects

- 1. University has sufficient number of transport facility but may be upgraded and maintained.
- 2. University has Sports facilities.
- 1. PGS has very well maintained student's files. Further it should be digitized.
- 2. Exam department has very good procedure of thesis evaluation but it should be digitized.
- 3. QEC has very well maintained its main campus and affiliated colleges' record.
- 4. It was revealed that QEC has establish dashboard for data collection for SARs, PGPR and for necessary data to bring all data at single point from where one can download it.
- 5. Pleased to know that QEC has first time got survey on SDG-4 from the first-generation students getting admission in university.
- 6. University has applied in international university rankings and QEC has INQAAHE membership.
- Pleased to see that SALU has stopped further intake on FIS observation of last PGPR visit team.
- 8. Pleased to witness that NOCs in all programs have been received, university needs to offer admissions wherever necessary keeping teacher-student ratio balanced.

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Over all findings and Recommendations (In order to see the compliance in future)

- 1. The university may ensure adequate and separate spaces for research-oriented faculty members to facilitate their academic and research endeavors.
- 2. While the faculty's commitment to securing national grants is commendable, there is potential for growth by pursuing international grants as well.
- 3. To support female faculty members, the university may consider providing. Childcare/daycare facilities, promoting a more inclusive and supportive work environment.
- 4. Digital library resource is limited and may be enhanced.
- 5. Lack of computing machines and simulation software for students and faculty.
- 6. Website of the university may be updated.
- 7. Admisisons on new programs may be offered whose NOCs have been received.
- 8. The university should actively seek to build and strengthen partnerships with local and international academic institutions and industries. Such collaborations can provide access to additional resources, expertise, and funding opportunities.
- 9. The GEP-23 policy has not yet been endorsed by the university's statutory bodies. To ensure its effective implementation, it is imperative that the policy is reviewed, discussed, and formally approved by these bodies.
- 10. The university currently lacks a Learning Management System (LMS) and relies on manual attendance processes.
- 11. There is a significant shortage of books, particularly for postgraduate students. The university should invest in expanding its library resources to include a broader range of academic texts, research journals, and reference materials.
- 12. The university should ensure a steady supply of essential chemicals and reagents required by the Natural Science Faculty. This is crucial for the smooth conduct of experiments and research projects.
- 13. University may establish a comprehensive Graduate Management System (GMS) dashboard to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of managing graduate theses. This system will provide a user-friendly platform where students can easily track the progress of their thesis from inception to completion.
- 14. Student grievance committee may be formed to address their grievances.
- 15. The website of the university and IT facilities may be enhanced and updated to facilitate all the stakeholders

*****END OF THE REPORT****

Dr. Saeed Ahmed Khan

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