



FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER

January - March, 2014

Introduction

Greetings to all who read these lines!

The Year 2014 started with good wish messages to the entire HUC community by the two Vice Presidents, Dean of Students and Gender Affairs, Student Parliament Leaders, as well as by the President. During this special event, the President emphasized that “Help the needy” will be the motto of the year 2014. This notion was taken from The Psalms 41 and the President further asked the entire members of the community to extend their helping hands to the underprivileged during the course of the year. This is in lieu of the increasing number of support seeking young applicants to HUC.

Otherwise, the quarter was rather short as could be witnessed by the speed the academic semester ended and the final exams were administered. During the quarter, several meetings involving academic staff (3), and Senate (3) were held in order to create proper academic environment for our students and to decide on important issues of concern.



Dean of Students and Gender Affairs giving advice to students

Academic Affairs

Instead of narrating the academic individual activities that took place during the quarter, I have opted to produce the firm evaluative remarks from different members of our academic personnel to round up the performances as stated in the following testimonies:

Environmental Science and Sustainable Development department head Ms. Sarah Assefa stated- “The new environmental science and sustainable development department got off to a great start. All students performed quite well academically, and the staff and students started an environmental club to supplement in-class learning with additional field activities, guest speakers and community engagement.”



Ms. Sarah



Ato Temesgen

Business Faculty Dean, Ato Temesgens' reflection of the quarter was “ As the quarter progressed, the academic exercise within the faculty was carried out rather smoothly. By applying the continuous assessment schemes our faculty members implemented the student-centered teaching approach. As a result better performance has been recorded by many of our students as shown at the end of the first semester examinations and the trends indicate continuous improvement over the last two years”.



Ato Melaku

Information Science Faculty Dean Ato Melaku had to say this ”In the Faculty of Information Science, due emphasis has been given for the implementation of active learning as a method of teaching in line with the training given for the faculty members at the beginning of the academic year. Continuous assessment, to ensure students’ progress in the teaching-learning process, proved a successful semester in terms of students’ achievement which is reflected through grades earned

as compared to earlier times. I should emphasize here that there are still gaps to fill in terms of continuous assessment practice”.

A member of the Student Parliamentary leaders, student Haimanot Honelign commented-“During the quarter, it was some what hard for Information Technology and Information Systems students because of frequent power interruption causing tremendous fluctuation in students grade results. Strong relationship between staff and students as well as the rest of the campus community was witnessed. The student population is growing fast as many new interested applications indicate, HUC is becoming a well known university within the city.”



Haimanot Honelign

Though student Haimanot complained about the power interruption affecting their performances, the semester grade results show otherwise. Out of the total of 551 students who took the finals, 68 passed with distinction, 30 with great distinction and 25 with very great distinction. To only indicate how our female students fare in their studies, out of the 123 distinction categories, 62 were females. If you want to pass judgment regarding our girl students, please read further about their involvements in the extra-curricular activities in the following section. HUC is very proud of its entire student population indeed.



During the semester break the staff arranged a travel program and visited Ambo and Wonchi area, some 110km from Addis Ababa. The trip was aimed at providing the needed break from the campus routines and



it is believed that all those who involved in the visit enjoyed the day, though it was understandably short. We hope such visits will be a common practice at HUC in future.

Dean of Students and Gender Affairs

During the quarter there were several activities performed by our students through the Dean of Students and Gender Affairs Office and here are some of the major events.

1. Some 55 students attended as invited guests in a question and answer forum on national television. The program was sponsored by Commercial Bank of Ethiopia. Our students used the occasion to promote HUC, not only making friendships with students from other colleges, but also distributing our college brochures as well.
2. Fundraising events were carried out by students to help fellow students among themselves and some 3685 Birr was raised. (“Help the needy” is the motto of the year.”
3. Training on creative leadership was conducted to 25 female students by an NGO called Creative Leadership Center.
4. HUC students also participated in debates conducted between government and private universities on differing topics. HUC hosted one of the debates between the girls from Addis Ababa University Architecture Department and HUC girls. HUC girls won the debate. In this series our girl had an opportunity to reach to the final debate which took place between the representatives of Addis Ababa and Southern universities at Hawasa University in Hawasa town.
5. HUC girls who were trained in creative leadership participated in a debate that was conducted at the Addis Ababa National Theater. The topic of the debate was “Sexual Harassment is not about sex, it’s about power”. In addition to the debate, our girls along with Addis Ababa University students gave motivational speeches and read poems concerning leadership. It is evident that our students’ engagements in such varieties of events are proving what HUC stands for. The entire University community applauds these young enthusiastic females for what they have done during the quarter.

Administration Activities

Major activities of administration and finance in this quarter were filling vacancies, hosting trainings, supplying the instruction materials for the period and following up the facility maintenance tasks of HUC and supervising other routine tasks and the details are shown below.

Human Resources

Eight full time staff members were recruited in the quarter to fill vacant positions. Four instructors were hired to serve the departments of information systems, information technology, marketing management and food science and technology. As part of strengthening the registrar office, two qualified staff were recruited, one of them being the head of the registrar office. All of the six qualified staff were screened and selected in the rigorous recruitment process applied in the university college.

Dr. Letemeskel Asfaw, a volunteer who served HUC as Vice President for Academic Affairs for a year and a half resigned from her position due to her current plan to spend more of her time with her family. Dr. Letemeskel gave her full time, passion and dedications in leading the academic activities of HUC. The management of HUC extends its heart-felt thanks and appreciations for Dr. Letemeskel for her fruitful service and at the same time looking for working with her in another occasion. Similarly, the senior accountant, Ato Saron, left HUC after finding a better paying job elsewhere. Ato Saron provided HUC an unreserved service for over four continuous years and was instrumental in setting up the new finance office of the Collage. The management thanks this young man for his service at HUC and wishes him all the best in his future endeavors.

Materials supply

As part of supporting the academic activities, necessary supplies were provided such as whiteboard markers, dusters, and papers and the like. In order to improve the printing service of the college, leather jet printer, and one copy-printer were purchased.

The additions of such machines improved the prints services. Girls Copy Center is under process of establishment. This project is aimed at supporting poor girls further opportunities to run the center and do the copying free for themselves and charging nominal fee for other fellow students. The girls in this case work under the supervision of the office the Dean of Students and Gender Affair in order to insure that the needy students are benefitting from the planned project.

Training

Ethiopiaid conducted a three days training for its partners from 10-12 March in the venue of Hope University College. The training had more than 40 participants focusing on the topics of communications, teaming building, project management, community participation, and business development and fund raising, leadership and financial management. The first two days the workshop was facilitated by 11 volunteers, while the last day was coordinated by topic champions. The training was well facilitated in five groups addressing challenges in real life situations. In addition to creating a venue in exchanging ideas among partners working on development projects, it forged a link among different organizations promoting the creation of networks and future collaborations.

Similarly, HUC hosted a training which was coordinated by Woord en Daad sponsored experts for school teachers that work for Ladders of Hope and Meserete Kirstos project in Jeldu. The training was held from February 28 to March 14, 2014. The training focused on different models of teaching methods that improve conducting classes in schools.

As part of engaging with community activities, HUC availed its facilities like multi-purpose hall this time for Gurage Nationalties Development Associations fund raising event. The fund raising event was held for one day and it was attended by high officials of the government. More than 2000 people participated in the event and the undertaking was successful. The Association was very grateful to HUC for using the hall for this important occasion.

Facility Maintenance

Some major facility repairs were undertaken as a routine task to insure proper services of all utilities within the campus. Such repairs included a damaged breaker replacement, sewerage system repair by opening blocked manholes, erecting of more security posts to provide better security.

Financial Situations

The budget with its utilization action plan for 2014 was prepared and submitted to the joint session of the Board and the General Assembly and subsequently approved. The financial audit of 2013 which was successfully conducted by external certified chartered accountants showed that the university college ended the year (2013) with a positive balance.

Partnership Activities

Ms. Carol Jarvis from the Open University (UK) visited HUC during the quarter. HUC's academic programs were introduced to her and the possible a partnership development issues between these two academic institutions were raised. To this effect, Ms. Jarvis promised to prepare a proposal indicating for the possible links in the near future. Both the President of HUC and the General Secretary of Hope Enterprise participated in the discussion.

Mr. Robert Clifford and Ms. Alexandra Chapman along with Professor Graeme Salaman were at HUC as part of their extended visits to their various projects in Ethiopia. Their visit to HUC was intended to have an up-date on the activities of the university and further discuss on strategic planning on issues



Ethiopiaid group visit

of fund raising strategy as well as capacity for HUC's sustainability, student growth and

retention, staff size and quality. They met with the officials of the university and the General Secretary of Hope Enterprises and held a detailed discussions on issues indicated above and future plans and areas of collaborations focusing on the pathways for financial sustainability of HUC as it was developed in the draft strategic document for the coming few years. Besides, the need to prepare an attractive short term training packages in various fields and possible support for this endeavor was also raised. This visit was indeed a fruitful one we believe and as often' HUC is grateful to EthiopiaaidUK for their interest in our successful growth and continued support.

Towards the later part of the quarter, members of the Diplomats Spouses' Association residing in Addis Ababa visited HUC. This visit was initiated by the earlier invitation by the President to the Association to visit HUC. The intention was to introduce



Members of the Diplomatic Spouses Association discussing with the President our programs in general and also to ask them for possible support for our various programs. Very friendly and compassionate discussions took place. The group also made a tour to our facilities and was happy to be here in the first place. Further communications are to continue with their leadership, it was agreed. The President believes and expects some positive out comes in the near future.

Individual Sponsorship Drive

HUC has been depending on institutional (Woord en Daad, Ethiopiaaid, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church) sponsorship and support to run its academic program. And we are so grateful to all of them. Recently we are encouraged to obtain individual sponsorship for our three female students namely Bizualem Girma (Food Sc. 2nd), Neima Mohamed (IT. 2nd) , and Tsion Getu (Acctg.2nd). While thanking those who have committed their loving hearts to these mentioned needy girls, I would like to solicit for many more individual sponsors for our resource-poor students. The Dean of Students and Gender Office is ready to provide the profile of such needy students on request.

We still need your help

Contact Us:

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The vision of HUC is to provide quality education that produces graduates who combine knowledge, skills and values to contribute to the renewal and transformation of Ethiopia. HUC believes all students should be in a setting where they develop a love of learning driven by creativity and curiosity, and also a desire to make their communities a place of hope, justice, peace and progress. We value each student and desire to involve them in an educational process that develops them to their full potentials. In this initiative, we believe that no student who has a yearning for learning should be left behind. On behalf of those needy students, we are currently looking for student sponsorships for the academic year 2014-2015.

For more information or to make a donation, please visit our website or contact us in our LEBU Office in Addis Ababa.

Thank you again for your generosity!