



FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER

January - March, 2015

Introduction

As the year 2015 ushered in, the College's academic program was at the height of the completion of the first semester. Activities thus carried out during the quarter within the two wings are presented herein under.

Academic

The first semester ended smoothly and examinations were conducted successfully having almost all of our students passing their exams. A total of 130 students were in the honor role, 30 students with very great distinction, 41 students with great distinction, and 59 with distinction. Out of these nearly half were females. These results indicated that instructors were using various teaching methods, were organized, used technology in the teaching process and the relationships between students and instructors were cordial. Less activity was observed in inviting professional guest speakers to the classrooms, though. This weak point was addressed in the recent staff meeting held on March 13, 2014. Instructors were encouraged to invite guest speakers to classrooms linking the College with the business community as we are in the process of expanding CBE in teaching-learning process. Some problems of inputs in relation to text books and software programs were observed during the semester and will attended to in the coming semester, the Vice President of the Academic Affairs assured.

Reaccreditation

With the plan to re-accredit the programs, the curricula of both Architecture and Food Science and Technology (FS) were revised by the respective departments involving external professionals in both fields. The FS has two focal areas: food science and nutrition, and food science and technology. Since similar programs are given in five public universities in the country, our curriculum is harmonized to the food science and technology stream. Unlike in the original plan, pre-requisite courses are indicated

now and collaborations with other institutions are included in the curriculum to work together in the area of food science.

Similarly, the architecture curriculum was also revised, in which, rearranging sequence of course, indicating pre-requisites, adjusting credits and moving courses from elective to core course categories, were carried out. The curriculum was revised with full participation of the architecture staff members by taking the nationally harmonized curriculum as point of reference.

The revised curricula of both departments were endorsed by the College Senate and subsequently submitted to Higher Education Relevance and Quality Agency for re-accreditation. The re-accreditation process will take about six months, based on our earlier experiences.

CBE Implementation continued

The implementation of CBE was successful in the semester. Students were enthusiastic in doing their papers and presenting them. Many professionals were invited to the campus and the learning atmosphere was stimulating seeing many experiences from different professionals. As a result, the motivation to learn is increased among students and they very much liked their experiences. Preparation was made to implement CBE in much better strength learning from the previous semester. The second semester books were prepared in time and provided for students. Coaching is included in the class schedule to make it part of the mainstream activities. Job descriptions for faculties were revised taking CBE at center stage clarifying the roles of staff in carrying out CBE. The program will be comprehensively evaluated with the experts coming from Woord en Daad in the coming month.

Research activities

The research activities were getting momentum after the formation of the Research and Publication Committee (RPC). The RPC made series of meetings to develop the research thematic areas for the College. The committee members decided to develop some common elements that have to be taken into considerations by departments before proposing their research thematic areas to the Office of Research and Publication. The committee agreed on the following format for the thematic areas fellow staff members/departments should consider when preparing and submitting their research requests to the Research and Publication Office.

Description of the thematic area: why the thematic area is important for the department?

After identifying the thematic areas, the department will prioritize the thematic areas by taking into account the following points among others.

- a. Alignment of the theme to the national developmental plan.
- b. Relation of the theme with vision and mission and objectives of the college.
- c. Practicality, demand-driven and problem solving motives of the research theme
- d. Major issue of the theme in the field of study

The RPC has also started to organize seminars for the first time. The first seminar presentation was held on March 26, 2015. It was presented by Ato Anteneh Taye (Dept. head of Food Science and Technology) on the topic of “Dietary Fibre”. The presentation was based on his previous research works. The seminar was indeed enlightening and was attended by both staff members and students. The presented material will be published in our first bulletin to appear soon. Similar, seminar activities will be organized in the future to facilitate more academic experience sharing as well as developing healthy academic debates among professionals.

Field visit by students

The third year students of architecture department made a study tour to the traditional architectural sites of the country in the north of the Ethiopia. They made a one week visit to the Rock-hewn churches of Lalibela and to the old Gondar palace, accompanied by their instructors. The visit was part of their study exposing them to the local traditional architectural sites. The visit was very useful in widening their practical experiences of students giving them a chance to blend the traditional architecture with the modern. The students were very happy on the visit and planning to share their experiences to others with displays of photos and presentations.



Architecture Students during visit of Castle of Gondar

Similarly, students of department of Environmental Science participated in the youth environmental awareness meeting in Addis Ababa University. The meeting addressed the role of youth in protecting the environment.

Administrative

Encoding of fixed assets, inventories and other campus properties using an open source application software known as fixed asset management was conducted. The system will enable the College's property administration to easily identify the various assets and effectively utilize the available resources.



Staff at fixed asset inventory

At the beginning of the new year, all employees of the college were assembled to discuss on the high points of the year ended and also to prepare for better results in the year ahead. Detailed exchanges between the management and the employees were made in regards to personnel administration, salary situation, participatory approach to achieve better results during the year, as well as conservative use of the limited resources including finance.



Discussion during staff meeting

The new year major activities were prepared with the associated budgetary requirements. The College, in its action plans, has indicated to achieve excellence in good governance, in teaching-learning, as well as excellence in research and community services. Establishing research and publication office, creation of more attachment with



Staffs at annual meeting

the local community, massive maintenance work, full-scale implementation of CBE, strengthening of the ICT unit by organizing additional computer lab, furnishing the library with text books, and preparation of the next five-year strategic document are among our major focal areas. The budget and the action plans are approved by the Board of the Enterprises.



Maintenance and repair of the various facilities and greening of our campus were given full attention from the very beginning of the year, as can be witnessed in the pictures. (pic, with scaffolding, on the top of ladder, fixing chairs, tree planting, green lawns etc.)

New employees added

Two new staff members were hired in the food science and technology department to meet the staff requirement there. The College after long search and waiting, now, has hired the new head of the finance and administration unit. With this new addition, we trust that both the human resource as well as the financial management will get proper and professional attention we so much need.

The College is also happy to have Ato Negash Kebede, the former General Secretary of Hope Enterprises, added into its academic leadership list. Ato Negash has been seconded by the Hope Board to the College to serve as the new Dean for the Faculty of Science and Technology up until his current contract term, come September, 2015. Ato Negash indeed brings long time experience in handling matters of both academic administration as well as project financing and skillful soliciting. The College hopes to benefit from his skills and would believe that Ato Negash stays with us beyond his present contract period.

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Tender attention to the tree planted

The College was recognized for its greening efforts of its premises. A medal and a trophy in appreciation were given during city-wide conference held by the municipality authorities.



The trophy and the medal

Partner visits

Regional Coordinator of the Ghara Alliance, Miss Ellen van den Hil was in Ethiopia during the month of February. As she led the Alliance' meeting, she also visited our College. She had extended and very fruitful discussions on the important issues of substance, maintenance, fund-raising as well as capacity building through the support of SPN with the management team. Since Mr. Jan Top from the Netherlands was already on Campus for the maintenance requirement consultation purposes, Miss Ellen had informative discussions with him as well.



W&D partners discussing on maintenance need at the college

Ethiopiaid made their annual assessment visit to the College March 18. Miss Alexandra Chapman and Miss Kelly Thomas made up the visiting team and besides meeting with the management of the College, they also visited the various facilities with particular attention to the English language laboratory. They also had met the English language department staff. Ethiopiaid is strongly supporting the notion of improving the English language teaching in our College. Since many of our newly admitted students do come from weak language backgrounds, there is a strong need to mitigate the situation. To this effect, Ethiopiaid is funding the consultation of our language teaching program by the British Council's language experts in Addis Ababa. As part of this consultation, the British Council will administer English language test (APTIS) for some of our students and instructors as well. Based on such assessment, it is expected that some useful recommendations on the way forward will be provided. As a result of such an expert advice, we believe some improvement both in the delivery and the utilization of the English language in the College will be enhanced.



New support solicited

The Hope College of Business, Science and Technology would like to ask individual student sponsorship pledges from all who come across this newsletter. Every year, we turn away nearly four hundred needy applicants since we could not extend our hands beyond the present capacity. If individual supporters from within and abroad could extend their kind hands to these needy youths, we could have handled as many as there are applicants. It is to be noted that enabling the young by properly educating is the best and only way to guarantee a nation's freedom from strife and eventually guarding it from the menace of terrorism. If supporting one individual contributes to such a situation, the world will be a better and peaceful place for its inhabitants. We would indeed be grateful to all who come aboard in this noble cause.

At this junction, the Presidents Office proudly informs the readers that all our first graduates have been employed! On behalf of all those graduates who have had generous support so to pursue the training that enabled them for such employment and that of my own behalf, I would like to humbly thank all those whose generosity made this possible.

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