



Newsletter

July, August and September 2012

From the Office of the President

As the university college commenced its service rather late in 2011, the end date for the first academic year was drawn out to mid August, 2012. Right after the completion of the first year, the Senate sat and reflected on how to do certain things differently. On the whole, it was noted that while most inputs at the university college were adequate, with the preparation of students being wanting, it was recommended that the Office of the Registrar work on recruiting students that can measure up to the challenges of the university college. It was also noted that supervisory roles and the focus given to the competency based training be strengthened.

The preparation for the ensuing year went over very well for the five departments that were already accredited. The challenge was putting in place all that was needed for the accreditation of the three new departments of food science and technology, environmental science and architecture. The senior management and the faculty shared the responsibility in addressing this challenge. The President



Ms. Kumneger Fikre, Dean of Information Sciences, talking to Alemu Abate, a student.

worked on the textbooks and many of the lab equipment that could not be bought locally. He also looked for the funding to buy the items. The Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs attended to the recruitment of the needed staff and facilitation of the in-country purchases. The newly hired Vice President for Academic Affairs worked on matters related to course catalog, admission, faculty assignment and the organization of the biology, microbiology and general science laboratories.

The President's office had to address the finalization of the contract for the construction of the university college. This step was a collective effort involving the consultant, the contractor and the university college. Parallel to such effects, the President had to do what he could in raising funds for both the construction and operations. He redid all the public relations material rewriting the brochure, designing posters and pledge materials and getting those printed. He then went to the US in late June with enough PR material and stayed through the major part of July making contacts and presentations. He managed to raise some funding particularly from the West Coast, where he also made his farewell and gratitude to a number of partners that had financed his initiatives over the past 25 years and asked the same cooperation to be accorded to the new president. Upon his return, He submitted proposals to the two major donors of the university college, Ethiopiaid and Woord & Daad. Similarly, he explored various ways of income generation including campus vegetable gardening.

Academic Affairs

Considering that the three departments that were proposed were of science and technology, a third faculty, the Faculty of Science and Technology was incorporated and Dr. Letemeskel Asfaw became the Dean of such faculty before she was appointed as the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Mulugeta Abebe, who was finishing his sabbatical from Addis Ababa University by assisting the President in academic affairs, made concrete contributions in demonstrating leadership in the academic subsystem and in the introduction of the new faculty until he went back to his institution on July 15.



Dr. Doug Holland, following up his students in his physics class.

As the start of the new academic year was drawing near, the faculty members for all the three disciplines were recruited, oriented and put to work. All of them fine-tuned their lesson plans as per the proposal submitted to HERQAA. Offices and classrooms were assigned to the new departments and faculty members. The President managed to get bought as many textbooks and lab equipment as possible for the new disciplines during his trip to the US and had them air freighted on his return trip. Hope Ethiopia Inc. was kind enough to purchase the books and lab equipment with the facilitation of



Ms. Betty Holland, making a point in the most favored English class

Mr. Jack Elwell of Venture Christian Church of Los Gatos, California. Substantial equipment was also bought from the local market. An architectural laboratory with 35 brand new computers was set up to enable computer based design. The other laboratories for general science, environmental chemistry and microbiology were also taking shape as their furnishing, electrical and sanitary fittings were designed and installed as per their requirements by our own staff, Wolde Gabriel Araya, Teshome Demissie of the Office of Facilities Management. The office,

headed by Mr. Adamu Assefa, is readied to do all the maintenance of the campus.

The contributions of Dr. Doug Holland, as our Director of Quality Assurance and professor of physics and mathematics and of his wife, Betty, as our Director of Cross Cutting Courses and professor of English were immense. They also financed many of the outlays of the new disciplines and supported some of the students financially. They left for Arizona on August 9 leaving a clear mark about what a faculty member needs to be to make a difference. They were in every body's heart sacrificing much to make the university college viable. We certainly thank them for such exemplary goodwill and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Education made public the pass scores for admission into public and private institutions of higher learning. On September 17, HERQAA, the accreditation agency of the federal government, came to visit what we had on board for the three disciplines that we had applied to be introduced effective from the 2012/13 academic year. A team of five evaluators came on that day and spent a major part of the day scrutinizing our faculty profile, facilities, textbooks, offices, etc. Few days later, we were informed that we could introduce the fields of food science and technology on one hand and architecture on the other. As regards environmental science, we were told that we had a lot to improve in terms of laboratory and workshop equipment and some changes in the curriculum itself. Counting our blessings with the accreditation of the two disciplines, we set October 8 the begin date for the sophomores and October 21 for the new students.

We went ahead and advertised for students on television, newspapers and by ways of flyers and brochures having then seven disciplines that students could major in. Students began to apply for the regular day and evening offerings. The management and the faculties had an orientation workshop for the new staff introducing the vision, mission and strategy of the university college and the main contents of the charter. The President underscored a value adding expectation from everyone involved with the thrust of the catchall impact being student development.

Student Affairs



The physics lab where concept becomes real

On the whole, the performance of students of the previous year was not something that we could be proud of though there were jewels pretty much in each department. Realizing that the pre-college preparation of most of our students was not adequate for college level education, we had two choices to address the challenge. One was to lower our standard and pass as many students as possible. The other was to maintain our standard and do the best that we could to help lagging students measure up. We chose the latter. We formed a foundation curriculum particularly in English and mathematics to such end. Betty Holland along with our English speaking staff were a great help in this step of remediation. To a considerable number of students, our tutorial classes made a difference. At the same time, to quite a few of our students, there was just too much to catch up on and make good with their examinations. As a result, almost a third of the student body could not make it to the sophomore year.

The need to have admission tests in particularly English and mathematics being all too obvious for us, Dr. and Mrs. Doug Holland prepared and validated such tests for the new applicants. We realized that our counseling and advisory efforts needed to be strengthened and that continuous assessment needed to be intensified. The regular use of the reflection hour to discuss problems of the type with students and the staff was also seen as something that can build confidence and work for better outcomes.

By the end of September, a number of students began to return from their summer break in faraway places. It was obvious that they wanted to start school with zeal and an enhanced appreciation. There were some students that did not go home for the break. These students worked as daily laborers making Birr 60 or so per day. There were also quite a few that were living on their harvest of their vegetable garden on campus. These youngsters had it right as working their way through school shaped them as self made persons.



Mr. Melaku Dagne, Our Director of Quality Assurance, checking out our IT students.

Construction and Equipping



Our campus is ever inviting.

We gave the contractor, Chin Jiangsu, a long time, July and August, to make the necessary corrections of construction works. But, literally stopping work, the problems noted persisted. We registered another warning but to no avail still. Consequently, we opted to deduct for work not done based on the quotations of the contract plus ten percent for inflation as per the allowance of the law. A meeting was held involving the representatives of the contractor, Mr. Zhou, the consultant represented by the Managing Director, Mr. Yoseph Bereded, and the President and Mr. Niek Hoffius on behalf of the university college. Based on the recommendations of Mr. Niek Hoffius, the deductions were put forward and after some negotiation, an agreement was reached on August 15 regarding the deductions against the claims of the contractor. Soon after this settlement, the contractor was told to leave the premise that it was using for staff quarters, office and storage. At the same time, we started applying some of the fund deducted for the corrections using our own expertise. In this regard, the booster pump was replaced and many of the malfunctions of the guest house were corrected.

Outstanding issues with Global Computing Solutions remained. One issue that we had to address was the items of the unified call manager and the wireless controller that we paid for but never received through customs. An alternative arrangement that enabled the same outcome was discussed and an agreement was reached with an exchange of note.



Architectural studio, one of the additions this fall

Administration and Finance

Required faculty members for each of the new three departments and replacements for faculty members that departed were recruited. The Office of the Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs posted the vacancies in various papers and was busy processing the selection. The office oversaw the many purchases of supply and equipment for the new academic year. At the same time, in consultation with the various organs of the university and the President, it framed the draft plan of action and budget for the year 2013 and submitted the same to the main office. There were two transfers of staff members to us from the Ladders of Hope following applications for the posts and mutual agreement between the concerned executives. Ato Teferi Ayalew, who was the Manager of the Addis Ababa Branch, became the Dean of Student Life considering his long experience in working with youngsters. Ato Woldegabriel Araya was transferred to fill the void in carpentry and metal works in our Office of Facilities Management coming from the carpentry workshop of the Addis Ababa Branch.

With gratitude for all your help and prayers, we are happy to give the above accounting of what your investment has done.

Respectfully Submitted,

Minas Hiruy
President

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How you can help

The vision of Hope University College is to provide quality education combining knowledge, skills and values to contribute to the renewal and transformation of Ethiopia. The university college believes that students should be in a setting where they develop passion for learning and desire to make their communities a place of hope, justice, peace and progress by applying their know how.

We value each student and desire to involve them in an educational process that develops them to their full potential. In this initiative, we believe that no student, who has the thirst for learning, should be left behind. For students of financial need, we are currently looking for student sponsorships for the 2012-2013 academic year.

For more information or to donate or to sponsor a student, please visit our website or contact us in our office. Thank you for your support!