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NAQAAE Team Nears Completion of AUC Accreditation Review

Aspiring to the highest standards of education both nationally and internationally, AUC has announced it is entering the final phase of a rigorous process to obtain an official endorsement from Egypt's National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education (NAQAAE). In doing so, AUC becomes the first university in Egypt to undergo the accreditation process from NAQAAE, a body created by the government in 2007 to establish quality standards for its educational institutions. This week, AUC welcomed a NAQAAE review team to AUC New Cairo and AUC Downtown campuses to complete the appraisal of AUC's curricula and administrative protocols. While all national educational institutions in Egypt are required to submit to evaluation by NAQAAE, AUC has chosen to pursue accreditation in solidarity with its Egyptian peers.



To outline the purpose and progression of the NAQAAE accreditation process, AUC held a news conference, which was attended by David Arnold, AUC president; Lisa Anderson, AUC provost; Magdi Qassem, NAQAAE's president; and AUC distinguished professor Ali Hadi.

At the news conference, Arnold explained that AUC's decision to apply for the accreditation stems from the university's belief in the importance of documenting the caliber of its curriculum and facilities. "AUC takes pride in meeting international as well as local standards of accreditation," he noted. "As the second oldest university in Egypt and as an active member of the Egyptian community, AUC places high value on being accredited in Egypt," he added.

In expressing his appreciation for AUC's trust in NAQAAE and the university's contributions to the advancement of higher education in Egypt, NAQAAE's president, Qassem, said, "By

taking the lead in applying for the NAQAAE accreditation, AUC provides a roadmap for other national universities to follow, and also enables NAQAAE to improve its tools and assessment practices.”

The visit by the review team follows the university’s submission of key documents to support its application for accreditation. To date, the NAQAAE team has received a copy of AUC’s self-study report and extensive background material related to AUC’s academic programs, student support services, finances and administrative operations. On earlier site visits to AUC campuses, the NAQAAE review team met and interviewed AUC students, faculty, staff, trustees and alumni. The review team also met with a cross-section of leaders from the AUC community, seeking insight into AUC’s unique challenges, strengths and opportunities.

The NAQAAE accreditation review committee’s assessment of AUC evaluates three broad elements: the quality of education and the quality of life services the university provides to students and to the community; the university’s financial stability and sustainability; and the university’s governance and management.

Reflecting on the accreditation practice, Anderson commented, “We value the advice and the assessment of our colleagues. AUC cherishes the feedback by the NAQAAE review committee, which includes highly qualified members and experts on education in Egypt and the U.S.,” adding, “Feedback is central to AUC’s continuous improvement and success.”

Hadi explained that the NAQAAE accreditation is a symbol of excellence complementing AUC’s reputation and history of academic excellence. “While AUC is not obliged to apply for the accreditation, AUC chose to take the lead, setting an example for Egyptian universities.”