**Update on Recent Events at NSU**

**Search for Academic Quality Enhancement**

Trustees M.A. Kashem, Azimuddin Ahmed, Shajahan, Benajor Ahmed (BOT Chair), Rehana Rahman, Yasmin Kamal and VC Amin Sarkar visited the top American Universities where they were received by university administrators and faculty members who are engaged in academic quality enhancement on a continuous basis emphasizing strategic planning, assessment of student learning, academic program modification, institutional effectiveness (all academic and administrative support services). The institutions included Harvard, MIT, Bentley, UMASS Dartmouth, U. Penn, Johs Hopkins, American, George Washington, U. of Maryland- Main Campus, SUNY's FIT and Farmingdale State. The hosts included university President, Provost, Associate Provost, Dean, Associate Dean, Department Chair, Directors of academic programs and international offices. The NSU delegates focused on their visits the bachelor and master's degree programs and support services.

The trustees also participated in a one day long meeting of the NSU International Advisory Board (IAB) composed of academic administrators and selected faculty from the top universities. The IAB is headed by Dr. David Strangway who was previously President of the University of Toronto and University of British Columbia, and an academic administrator and faculty at MIT. The IAB congratulated them for the rapid progress of the university enrolment, substantial increase of salaries, reorganization, and the outstanding facilities. It also thanked the trustees for their commitment to the enhancement of educational quality for which the university has decided to gain university-wide and selected program accreditation by U.S. accreditation authorities.

All NSU full-time faculty received the copies of the reports of the IAB and U.S. Visit held in October 2014. The trustees and the VC also held a successful meeting with all full-time faculty members in the last week. The BOT is pleased to see the largest gathering of the faculty in the history of the university. The trustees and the VC shared their experience of the visit before the question/answer session of the meeting. The meeting was also addressed by several faculty members from the audience. All members of the faculty were thanked for their hard working, support, and going ahead with the university's initiatives for both the university and selected program accreditation.

**Update on Accreditation**

In Bangladesh there is a push for assurance of academic quality. The UGC is taking the leadership with introducing a unit in each private university. North South University is ahead on this matter as it has been putting emphasis of quality education and accreditation for more than a year.

At the faculty meeting mentioned above, Dean Miftaur Rahman gave an update on the ABET accreditation of the computer and engineering programs while Dean Mahbub Rahman gave an update on the ACBSP accreditation of the business programs. The engineering school is now working on the ABET recommendations after they reviewed the NSU pre-accreditation application package. The ACBSP Executive Director from the U.S. was at NSU for a joint seminar of the UGC, NSU and Daffodil University for business accreditation in Bangladesh. The seminar was attended by senior officials of the UGC and several Vice Chancellors, Pro-Vice Chancellors, and Deans of the private universities. At a NSU dinner, the Executive Director handed over the Candidacy Certificate to NSU. This action by the ACBSP is the result of their review of the NSU application package for accreditation.

**Pro-VC Mashquat Uddin's Dismissal**

Pro-VC Mashquat Uddin, was hired as a Ph.D. (according to his signed CV) and recently it was revealed that he did not have a Ph.D. The BOT gave him 48 hours to produce his Ph.D. certificate or transcripts and he was refrained from his assigned duties and responsibilities till further order. As he failed to submit his Ph.D. certificate or transcripts, after 48 hours expired, in an emergency BOT meeting he was dismissed from his services and it was reported to the government.

On examination of his personal file having papers of his previous appointments at NSU as an Assistant Professor in 1997, Associate Professor in 1998, and Professor & Dean in 2002 revealed no evidence of any academic degrees except a letter of January 10, 1997 from Dr. Heidi Meier, Director , DBA Program and Associate Professor of Accounting of the Cleveland State University (CSU). The letter indicates that he was a DBA student at that time. It may be noted that the Pro-VC was in charge of all personal files of the faculty maintained in his office.

Although the question of equivalency of the Ph.D. and DBA degrees is not the issue, Pro-VC Mashquat Uddin, with his DBA papers submitted a copy of the UC Berkeley Extension's advertisement (a copy is attached) that shows the difference between the DBA and Ph.D. as if the UC Berkeley Extension offers a DBA degree also. An examination of the internet and the given webpage of the Pro-VC revealed no such advertisement of the UC Berkeley Extension (copy attached). This is a clear deceiving strategy as this wing of the UC Berkeley is not authorized to offer any bachelor, master's or doctoral degree. As a service to the community, many U.S. universities have an Extension wing that primarily offers courses for working people so that they can refresh their skills and knowledge in specific areas without any admission requirements.

The Dhaka University's IBA advertisement for their DBA admission at page 5 of the Daily Star of 5/11/2014 (copy attached) that mentions the purpose of the DBA program to "ensure highest levels of proficiencies in professional careers ... in the corporate arena". In the U.S., there are some universities which typically offer the DBA program in the evening and weekends for working individuals primarily of the business world. It is certainly not a Ph.D. degree that is meant for faculty positions to teach and to do research.

In the Bangladesh Protidin of November 12, 2014, Dr. Mashquat Uddin says he got his DBA in 1977 but his CSU certificate of DBA that he submitted now for the first time to the university shows his DBA of 1998 and he wrote in his CV that he got his Ph.D. degree in 1996.

The university examined his signed copies of many faculty offers with his own ruling for making false statement in the CV. It says “any false statement in the CV will result in automatic termination". Therefore, the decision of the BOT for his dismissal should not be a surprise for him.

**This week's Rumour**

There is a rumour that the university (NSU) made a list of faculty members to be terminated. The VC, Deans, or Chairs do not know if there are any such lists. The management has not asked for such a hit-list. Please do not pay attention to this kind of rumour. Thank you.