



Spring Newsletter

April, May and June 2010

From the Office of the President

This quarter was a period of both finalization processes and a new beginning. Phase one of the buildings were provisionally handed over to us by the contractor and most of the buildings in phase two were being prepared for the same milestone. The consultant, our project manager, Mr. Daniel de Witte and Site Supervisor, Ato Zerihun Ketsela, were busy noting poor works for correction. As regards new beginnings, we submitted our application for accreditation and completed the hiring of the staff. We also managed to recruit eight expatriate staff from the US, the Netherlands and Sweden. With the various supplies for the furnishing being in place, we were able to see the first set of furniture. A key person in the whole operation, Dr. Eyayu Lulseged, was recruited to be our Vice President for Academic Affairs. He will come with ample experience in higher education. Preparation for the introduction of competency based training (CBT) was completed, with a consultant, Mr. Wim Hartog, planning to come from the Netherlands to provide training on the subject to the whole staff. As the staff evolved with an enviable team spirit and anticipation for a nice launch of the university college in September, our Advisory Board met on May 27 and made various decisions.

Administration and Finance

Dr. Behailu, the HUC Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs, was busy this quarter participating in staff recruitment, following the progress of construction on campus, setting up campus security and facilitating customs clearance for materials and supplies coming in from abroad. Additionally, Dr. Minas and Dr Behailu traveled to Mekele University on June 21 -23rd to observe the workings of certain departments on the campus. They visited the Civil Engineering Department's workshops, the Administration Office and computer labs. Important lessons were learned about digitizing all of the files at the University College.

Staff Recruitment: A total of 21 professionals have been hired with contracts beginning on July 1st. Eight volunteers have been recruited from various countries. A database for personnel files has been established and we organized a two-day staff orientation in early July.

HUC Campus Security: Following the completion of five buildings on the HUC campus, we signed a contract for security services with Dejene Security Plc. on June 30th. Dejene Security provides similar services to Hope Enterprises' Ladder's of Hope at the Jack Smith Campus. This contract is on a trial basis and the University College will evaluate the performance of the company and depending on the outcome of the evaluation may adopt another alternative.

Customs: Improvement has been observed in clearing goods from customs after an Operational Agreement between HUC and the Charities and Societies Agency was signed on April 13, 2010.

Accreditation

We have been working diligently to prepare for accreditation! A meeting was held in May with Education and Training Quality Assurance Agency (ETQA), the government body responsible for accreditation. They were very positive about our initiative and instructed us to submit our application on June 7th. We had prepared all the documents involving the charter, the curriculum, the five year strategic plan, the proceedings of meetings of various stakeholders and student handbook. We proposed to start with six departments under three faculties and to postpone the Department of Industrial Technology given some lag in getting the required machinery, lab equipment, etc. The agency agreed to this proposal. The Department of Marketing, which had previously been postponed, was added to fully utilize the facilities. The marketing curriculum was drafted by our colleagues at Dronten University in Holland, Jolanda and Corne Kocks using the Competency Based Training format.

Then on June 7th, all the required documents were delivered to ETQA. This included: The Charter of Hope University College, Five Year Strategic Plan, stakeholder meeting proceedings, curricula, Student Catalogue, and a list of every textbook and reference book we plan on using. This move was a major step, developing all the documents with our internal capacity after much hard work. The President thanked all the staff members who took part in the completion of what we considered to be the software of the University College at an appreciation dinner. We then began to prepare for the accreditation visit to the campus early in July.



Inside view of the De Pagter Library



Auditorium seen from the classroom building

Books

In the meeting with ETQA, we learned that the accreditation process has been modified. ETQA now requires that we have one copy of each textbook available for their review by the time of the Accreditation Site Visit in early July.

Betty Lu Holland took the lead in securing textbooks. Due to time constraints, direct appeals were made to many American friends to order single copies of our textbooks from Amazon and mail them to us. These friends came through and all the textbooks have arrived. We also received the containers of books sent by Menlo Park and World Concern. These containers held eleven sets of textbooks with enough copies to provide one textbook to each student.

An effort is being made to order the remaining textbooks from India. After consulting local distributors, we decided it would be more cost effective to order them from abroad. Three additional containers of books and computers are coming from Books-for Africa, as well. Thanks to all our friends and donors, our goal of one text for each student and 60,000 books in the library seems within reach!



View of the campus: completed classroom building, auditorium (under construction) and completed De Pagter library

Staffing

In order to comply with ETQA requirements, we moved forward with hiring all academic and administrative staff. The Ministry requires three academic staff for each of our six departments; two instructors in each department must have Masters degrees. Beginning on April 4th, vacancy notices were posted in local newspapers and on our website for the following positions:

Academic Vice President	Industrial Technology Workshop Technician
Librarian	Information Technology Workshop Technician
Registrar	Instructors for the Department of Building Construction
Senior Accountant	Instructors for the Faculty of Information Science
Architect	Instructors of English

After collecting applications for two weeks, we selected candidates who had ample teaching experience in higher education to come for an interview. The interview process consisted of a 30-minute general question and answer session, a 15-minute presentation on a topic related to their profession and a written assignment completed in MS Word to assess computer literacy and English writing skills.

Our goal was to have a creative mix of foreign and Ethiopian staff and after interviewing around thirty candidates, we are pleased to announce that 21 Ethiopian candidates agreed to join us. Furthermore, eight expatriates expressed their commitment to join us during our planned opening in September.

Following the posting for the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs, a number of applicants submitted their documents. The Advisory Board managed the selection process with the executive team and Dr. Eyayu Lulseged was selected for the post. We are pleased to have Dr. Eyayu's over 20 years of administrative and teaching experience in higher education. He served as the Vice President of Academic Affairs of Unity University for a number of years contributing to the growth of that private institution. He is to begin his work on August 1st.



New staff in front of the De Pagter Library

Construction Update

Daniel de Witte, the chief architect of HUC's master plan, joined us in May to serve as Project Manager of the construction of the University College in place of Mr. Niek Hoffius. Since his arrival, we have seen noticeable progress in the development of the campus. By the end of June, phase one buildings were provisionally handed over to us. This included: the library, classroom complex A, student center and the administration building. The construction company agreed to apply epoxy on corridors that were not finished properly, strengthening window hinges and handles, fine-tuning some roof work, etc. before making the handover final.

Work on phase two buildings also proceeded well. One change was made in the covering used for the roof of the auditorium from grass thatch to stone slates. We found that the type of grass presented by the contractor would not be long lasting and require a replacement every five years. Furthermore, we learned that the grass needed (sendedo) is becoming extinct in the country due to construction and farmland expansion. The construction company agreed to import the slates from China at cost and install them, saving the University College the cost involved in the removal of the grass and frequent replacement. The risk of fire was also reduced.

An amicable settlement was reached for the problem of the Technical Services Building foundation. Various alternatives were explored with the consulting firm, Abba Architects, Plc,. They proposed using the building not as a classroom, but as a workshop for the Faculty of Science and Technology. We decided to move forward with this plan considering the emphasis on science and technology in higher education in this country. With the onset of the rainy season expected for mid-June, plans were set to plant proper grass on the roof of the library.

At the end of March we also began preparing for the IT infrastructure on campus. All of the necessary equipment was purchased and Global Computer Solutions (GCS) was sub-contracted to complete the project. After network cables were pulled in seven of the nine buildings on campus, computer cabinets were put in the classrooms and offices and network outlets were set in all finished buildings. Floor boxes were finished in the two classroom buildings and is currently being done in the De Pagter Library.

Ethio-Dutch Furniture (EDF) Company was contracted to make the furniture for HUC. Based in Debre Zeyt, EDF has begun assembling classroom and office tables, shelves and other items for the campus.

Contact Us:

Dr. Minas Hiruy
President

Hope University College

155 Churchill Road

P.O. Box 12382

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Phone: +251.11.15.60.346

Email:

hopeuc_dl@yahoo.com

Visit us on the web!

www.hopeuniversitycollege.org

How you can help

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 a setting where they develop a love of learning driven by creativity and curiosity, as well as 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 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 2010-2011 academic year.

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