

Agentur für Qualitätssicherung und Akkreditierung Austria

Attn. Mag<sup>a</sup>. Agnes Witzani

Renngasse 5, 4. OG

1010 Wien

Regarding: Statement on the reports of the reviewers to the accreditation procedure for the accreditation of Dubai for four study programs

Vienna, 11/28/2016

Dear Ms. Witzani,

Thank you for submitting the two reports of the team of reviewers responsible for the application for accreditation of the Campus Dubai as new location for offering four of our study programs, which were studied on our part as usual with high interest.

Of course, MODUL University Vienna, in particular our people at the Campus in Dubai are happy and proud, given the overall very positive assessment of this endeavor expressed in the reviews. However, as one condition has been formulated in the expert panel review report in order to make the wholehearted recommendation on part of the reviewers to the

AQ Austria possible, as well as some suggestions on details of the application, allow us to elaborate a bit on these points. In this regard, we would like to note that the concerns raised by the expert panel were not mirrored by Dr. Donn's report which instead praised the proposed setup and academic and structural collaboration between the Dubai Campus and MODUL Vienna.

Nevertheless, in an effort to address the concerns raised by the expert panel, MODUL University has carefully considered the condition raised and has therefore adapted the Guidelines of Academic Self-Administration (see attached) to fully comprehend and address the concerns raised by the expert panel reviewers which can be summarized as follows:

Appointment of Full and Associate Professors: If a Full or Associate Professor is going to be appointed, the Campus Senate (MU Dubai) will vote on the representatives of the appointment committee which will be communicated by the Campus Board to the University Senate who will be asked for approval. In the event that the appointments committee is not elected by the University Senate, the Campus Senate must submit an alternative proposal. The student member in the appointments committee is nominated by the Campus student representatives (Article II § 7 lit. viii; Article X § 4).

The search process will then be carried through. The appointment committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the Campus Board who in turn will request the approval of the appointment from MODUL University's President, who has the final decision. The operative tasks after the decision will be trusted to the Campus Board (Article X § 9).

On student admission, the Campus Board in Dubai will recommend members to the Admissions Committee for study programs at Campus Dubai, which must be approved by the President of MU Vienna (Article II § 7 lit. vi; Article VII § 1). The President will co-sign the admission of the students (Article VII § 7).

Through applying the above, MODUL University Vienna is fully equipped with the leverage to monitor the development of Campus Dubai's academic quality and will be able to take responsibility for it. This is based on the following facts – all of which are duly reflected in the Self Administration Guidelines:

- The President of MODUL Vienna has secured the final decision power on the main two aspects highlighted in the condition raised by the expert panel reviewers (appointment process of professors and student admission);
- The Academic Head in Dubai is appointed by the University Board in Vienna;
- Campus Dubai has fully adopted the set of regulations as stipulated in the statute of Vienna where predetermined decision making processes are fully aligned with the statute of MU Vienna.

After these remarks on the condition formulated by the reviewers, some words on the other suggestions made – again, MODUL University Vienna thanks for these valuable suggestions.

A Mission Statement for the Campus Dubai will be formulated soon in close collaboration of MU Vienna and Campus Dubai. Also the recommendation of creating clear written policies for its planning and resource allocation processes will be implemented.

MODUL University thinks that the process of course materials and literature becoming more nuanced and more reflecting the local and regional circumstances through the process of revising and updating the course material by the respective lecturers.

Only the suggestion of having dual language teaching (Arabic and English) will not be implemented in this form, as it would counter the aim of being a truly international university. Discussions in Arabic during classes might exclude non-Arabic speaking students. However, Arabic language courses will be offered as non-curricular courses, to give students in Dubai the opportunity to develop their language skills.

Again, MODUL University Vienna thanks all reviewers for their effort and their helpful suggestions, giving an “outside view” of MODUL University’s plans and by this helping the university to improve the quality of these plans and endeavors.

Yours respectfully,



Prof. Dr. Karl Wöber

President of MODUL University Vienna

