

UOS STRATEGY UPDATE

16 May 2024

OVERVIEW

On May 16th, the University of Sharjah (UOS) hosted the 23/24 Mid-Year Strategic Leadership Forum, led by the Chancellor, Professor Hamid Al-Naimiy. The event commenced with a dynamic Lego Serious Play (LSP) session, emphasizing a hands-on, minds-on approach to understanding, presenting, and evaluating proposed academic strategic initiatives. This event highlighted several significant initiatives and strategic directions as part of the new EDGE Strategy development, aimed at enhancing the university's academic standing and operational excellence. This activity set the tone for creative and collaborative expression throughout the forum, showcasing the university's commitment to innovative solutions for advancing educational outcomes.



STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND STUDENT SATISFACTION

In the afternoon, as part of the review of the SPIRIT Strategy, the Chancellor emphasized the crucial role of the International Relations Office. The Vice Chancellor for Financial and Administrative Affairs and the Director of the Office of International Relations have been tasked with fortifying this office to ensure UOS remains the top university in the UAE. Additionally, efforts to improve employability rates and enhance student satisfaction are progressing well. The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the College Deans are addressing student feedback, focusing on timely grade provision and equal treatment of students.

The classroom environment survey key performance indicator recorded a satisfaction rate of 89.1%. While two colleges fell below the target, eleven colleges exceeded expectations, highlighting the university's dedication to maintaining a positive and conducive learning atmosphere.

ENHANCING FACULTY AND STAFF SATISFACTION

The forum emphasized the importance of the faculty and staff satisfaction survey. The Vice Chancellor for Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation is leading efforts to improve participation rates and has requested all deans and directors to evaluate the surveys and provide feedback to their respective faculty members.

Additionally, the annual key performance indicator for Faculty Satisfaction showed a positive result, with an overall satisfaction rate of 85.9%. While six colleges fell slightly below the target, seven colleges surpassed expectations, reflecting the ongoing commitment to faculty well-being and institutional excellence.



BRANDING INITIATIVE

The Director of Marketing and Student Recruitment is excited to announce that 95% of the university's branding actions have been successfully completed. The highly anticipated new university website is set to launch soon, following the final testing phase. Additionally, digital ID cards are being re-rendered to meet the updated project scopes, ensuring they align perfectly with our latest standards.

During the summer of 2024, the WayFinder component of the branding initiative will deliver new door signage, directional signage, faculty villa numbering, and building names.

ADVANCING ACADEMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The Dean of Academic Support Services reported delays in several initiatives, including the development of a student hub, classroom modernization, and central labs expansion. These initiatives will be carried over to the 2030 EDGE Strategy to boost satisfaction and reputation. These projects aim to provide state-of-the-art facilities and learning environments for students.





HOLISTIC STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE

The Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs shared exciting updates on the Holistic Student Success Initiative, designed to enhance academic performance, student satisfaction, and effective advising. Additionally, significant progress is being made in developing an advising system that actively monitors student engagement, with representatives from each college currently involved in pilot testing this innovative system.

Furthermore, the Academic Probation key performance indicator has shown notable improvement, moving to good performance compared to previous years. Post-Covid-19 data reveals an average rate of 7.2%, with four colleges slightly below target yet still within tolerance, and eight colleges comfortably meeting the expected standards.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRESS

The Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies highlighted the importance of research KPIs, emphasizing the need for some colleges to enhance their publication quality. To bolster research capabilities, initiatives such as SOTI/STRIP and increased PhD scholarships are being implemented. The Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies noted delays in Innovation Space Hub due to changes in the location. The new Innovation Hub will be based in the underutilized Faculty Social Hub, and faculty social events will take place in an alternative location. The dedicated research building M1A is also underway, marking a promising future for our research community.

The strategic initiative underscores the critical importance of leveraging the respective strengths of the Sharjah Oasis for Technology and Innovation Research Park and the Sharjah Research Technology and Innovation Park by merging them. This vision aims to establish a cutting-edge research ecosystem that catalyzes unmatched innovation, entrepreneurship, and education. The project's action plan commenced with a series of collaborative committee meetings aimed at identifying synergies and initiating steps towards achieving higher-value objectives in the future.

OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL RESTRUCTURING

The Vice Chancellor for Financial and Administrative Affairs highlighted the proactive steps being taken to enhance financial management and project efficiency within the VCFA office. These efforts focus on ensuring colleges are self-sustaining and optimizing financial resources across the university. By implementing robust financial practices and streamlining project closures, the university aims to maintain fiscal health and support long-term growth. Special attention is being given to ensuring efficient budget management in all departments, with targeted strategies to enhance financial stability and sustainability.

In line with these efforts, advancements in the ERP system implementation are ongoing. The contractor/supplier has been awarded, and a dedicated committee/project team has been established to oversee the project.



This forum marks a significant step in the University of Sharjah's ongoing commitment to excellence in education, research, and student satisfaction. The university's leadership remains dedicated to fostering an environment that supports academic and operational success. By focusing on impactful initiatives, the university aims to make a difference in the lives of its students and the broader community, ensuring that its efforts resonate beyond the campus.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE
NEW UOS EDGE STRATEGY 2030,
PLEASE CLICK THE FOLLOWING
ICON**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
THE STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENTS
AND SPIRIT STRATEGY, PLEASE
CLICK THE FOLLOWING ICON**



FOR INQUIRIES, EMAIL US AT: STRATEGY_OFFICE@SHARJAH.AC.AE



جامعة الشارقة
UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

f t i @USharjah
www.sharjah.ac.ae