

PFDP National Roundtables on Higher Education in Palestine

Roundtable Five

Community Engagement and University Development

January 13-14, 2012

Caesar Hotel
Rome I and Rome II
Ramallah

Background

In 2005, 29 university presidents, rectors and vice chancellors from 23 countries met under the auspices of Tufts University in Talloires (France) to address the need to strengthen the civic role and social responsibilities of the world's higher education institutions. The result was the *Talloires Declaration*, which committed the signatory universities to *strengthening the application of university resources to the needs of local and global communities* (copies of the Declaration are attached). Since 2005, the Talloires Network has grown to include more than 140 universities from every continent.¹

The *Talloires Declaration* offers a useful framework for an exploration of principles, international practices and importance of universities' responsiveness to national and community priorities as a core element of their mission and purpose. It emphasizes that *universities do not exist in isolation from society, nor from the communities in which they are located. Instead, they carry a unique obligation to listen, understand, and contribute to social transformation and development.*

Each of Palestine's universities has embraced this vision and accepted the responsibility to make the university more responsive to students from every background; to local and regional communities and organizations; to the private sector, and to the national interest. There are many exemplary programs in continuing education, applied research, community outreach, service learning, community service and constructive partnerships that demonstrate a shared commitment to the values and priorities of the Talloires Declaration. Yet issues remain to be discussed. These include—but are not limited to: quality assurance; budgetary sustainability; faculty workload and reward structures; the impact on teaching, learning and assessment; relationships with the private sector; and the challenge of developing programs and curricula that are more demand-driven and consistent with the emerging national interests.

The Roundtable

We are fortunate indeed to welcome Dr. Kevin Kecskes and Dr. Sheila Martin of Portland State University (PSU) join us for our 5th Roundtable. Portland State—a charter member of the *Talloires Network*—has earned a reputation as one of the most dynamic, creative and effective American universities in the area of community engagement as a defining concept for the university's development and character.

PSU's engagement activities are characterized by three overarching strategies:

¹ Al Quds University is a charter member of the Talloires Network. Portland State University is also a member.

- embedding engagement into the curricula via the implementation of community-based learning (CBL) and other active learning pedagogies;
- students' civic capacity and skills building for active democratic participation in communities; and
- formal faculty rewards for community-engaged research and service.

This integrated approach—involving faculty, students and community partners in every phase of development and implementation—is broadly understood as “the PSU way.” On campus, deans and faculty alike will say that “engagement is part of the DNA of PSU.” Nationally, and increasingly internationally, this approach has earned PSU the reputation as a clear leader in engagement.²

For many years, Dr. Kevin Kecskes, Associate Vice Provost for Engagement and Director for Community-University Partnerships, has provided visionary and energetic leadership at Portland State as its longstanding commitment to community engagement matured into a strategic and operational priority that has helped PSU build upon its unique position as Oregon's only urban university. And Dr. Martin, the Director of the Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies and the Population Research Center at PSU, has vast experience in linking university research and innovation to the strategic needs of industry.

Dr. Kecskes and Dr. Martin will share their experience with the many forms of community engagement at universities in USA and other countries. They will be joined by several university vice presidents, faculty, and community representatives from communities and organizations in Palestine who will comment on the successes and challenges of strategic community engagement in the Palestinian context. This sharing of information and different perspectives on community engagement will foster a better understanding of successful examples and how they might be adapted to the circumstances and aspirations of PFDP's partner universities.

The focus of the discussion will be on realizing the full potential of community engagement and partnerships as a strategic investment in the future development of Palestine's higher education system. A primary goal will be to identify and find ways of overcoming the policy and operational issues that stand in the way of the universities' becoming more creative and effective in reaching out to their respective communities and even to each other.

² Weiwel, W., Kecskes, K., and Martin, S. (2012) *Metropolitan Universities*, Vol. 22, No. 2, pp 3-10

Program

Friday, January 13, 2012
Caesar Hotel
Rome I and Rome II

Introductions and Welcome
9:00 am -9:30 am

Dr. John W. Shumaker
Chief of Party
PFDP

Session 1
9:30 am- 10:30 am

Dr. Kevin Kecskes
Portland State University

The Engaged University: A Strategic Vision

10:30-11:30
Dr. Sheila Martin
Portland State University

*Productive University-Community Linkages:
Examples, Successes and Challenges*

11:30am-1:00 pm
Lunch and Prayer Break

Session 2
1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Community Engagement: A Palestinian University Perspective

Dr. Radwan Barakat
Vice President for academic Affairs
Hebron University

Dr. Ayesha Al-Rifai
Dean of the Education Science Faculty and
Principal, Ramallah Women Training Center
UNRWA

Dr. Munir Qazza
Vice President for Community Outreach
Birzeit University

Mr. Ayman Tamimi
Vice President for Community Services and External Affairs
Palestine Polytechnic University
And
Mr. Maher Hoshayesh
Director of the Palestinian Stone and Marble Union

3:00pm-3:30pm

Break

Session 3

3:30 pm-4:30 pm

Community Engagement: Faculty and Administrative Perspectives

Dr. Samir Najjar
Dean of Planning, Development and Quality
Palestine Technical University-Kadoorie

Dr. Ghassan Faramand
Birzeit University

Session 4

4:30 pm-5:30 pm

Questions and Open Discussion

7:00pm

Dinner

**Saturday, January 14, 2012
Rome 1 and Rome 2**

Session 5

9:00 am -10:15 am

***Community Engagement
Observations by Community Representatives***

**Dr. Ayesha Al-Rifai, UNRWA
Moderator**

**Ms. Samah Hamad
General Manager
PalTel Group Foundation**

**Mr. Saber Amleh
Ministry of National Economy
Palestinian National Authority**

**Mr. Imad Rjoub
Royal Industrial Corporation
Hebron**

10:15 -10:30 am

Break

Session 6

10:30-12:00 pm

Group Work and Reporting

Defining Critical Areas for University-Community Cooperation in Palestine

**Dr. Kevin Kecskes
Dr. Sheila Martin
Dr. Shumaker**

Session 7

12:00 pm-12:30 pm

**Discussion and Wrap-Up
Dr. Shumaker**

12:30 pm

Evaluation

1:00 pm

Lunch and Departure

**Fifth National Roundtable on Higher Education in Palestine
Palestinian Faculty Development Program**

**Community Engagement and University Development
January 13-14, 2012**

**Caesar Hotel
Ramallah**

Featured Speakers



Dr. Kevin Kecskes

Kevin Kecskes, Associate Vice Provost for Engagement, and Director for Community-University Partnerships, has been charged with helping campus and community constituents live the university motto: "Let Knowledge Serve the City" for the past decade. From 1997-2002, Kevin was the Director of Service-Learning at Washington Campus Compact, and the Program Director of the Western Region Campus Compact Consortium. In that role, he led two multi-million dollar federal grant programs that worked with over 40 institutions of higher learning in California, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii. He also initiated the Western regional "Continuums of Service" conference for higher education and community practitioners; that annual conference is now in its 14th year.

Dr. Kecskes served three years in leadership and program development positions with AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps in Charleston, SC. In this role, he worked with community, K-12 schools, higher education institutions and non-profit and public organizations on community development and education projects. He also co-founded the Boston College International Volunteer Program and has spent a dozen years working, serving, and studying in the developing world, primarily in Latin America, Asia, and in recent years, the Middle East. His recent publications focus on the nexus between cultural theory and community-campus partnerships, faculty and institutional development for civic engagement, student leadership development, ethics and community-based learning, community-based research, international higher education development, and theory and practice for engaging academic departments.

Dr. Kecskes Kevin co-directs PSU's Center for Academic Excellence. Dr. Kecskes' formal studies include biology, philosophy, education, and public administration and policy at Boston College, Harvard University, and Portland State University.



Dr. Sheila A. Martin

Dr. Sheila Martin is the Director of the Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies and the Population Research Center at Portland State University. She serves as a portal to the University's knowledge resources for the community and directs the Institute's research and service activities. Dr. Martin is also a faculty member in the Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies and planning. She teaches courses on economic development policy and mentors students interested in economic and community development and community engagement.

Prior to joining PSU in 2004, Dr. Martin served as Washington State Governor Gary Locke's economic development advisor, developing and implementing the Governor's economic development initiatives. She played a key role in Governor Locke's Competitiveness Council, which paved the way for Boeing's reinvestment in Washington State with the 787 program.

Prior to her appointment by Governor Locke, Dr. Martin worked as a Senior Economist at the Research Triangle Institute. While at RTI, she built a research program in technology economics and policy and researched the value of new innovation and the impact of technology in industry. Dr. Martin's research and teaching interests include sustainable economic development, regionalism, and technology economics and policy. Sheila earned a B. A. in Economics and Political Science from Southern Illinois University, M.A. in International Studies from the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce at the University of Kentucky and a Ph.D. in Economics from Iowa State University.



Dr. Radwan Barakat

Professor Radwan M. Barakat is currently the Vice President for Academic Affairs of Hebron University. He obtained his PhD in plant pathology from Washington State University in Pullman in 1992, and since then is actively engaged in applied research in the field of biological control of major plant pests and diseases. In this direction, Dr. Barakat established in 2007 the Plant Protection Research Center (PPRC) at HU and served as his director since then.

Dr. Barakat in his previous capacity as the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Dean of Graduate School, and Dean of Academic Research is a leading administrator in Palestinian Higher Education and is currently the President of the Palestinian European Academic Cooperation in Education program (PEACE Program), which is an academic program that includes 53 member universities around Europe and all the Palestinian Universities.

In terms of community engagement, Dr. Barakat is a board member of the national Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission (AQAC) and the Quality Improvement Fund (QIF) of the World Bank.



Dr. Ayesha Al Rifai

Dr. Ayesha Al-Rifai is an Affiliated Scholar at UC Berkeley and is Dean of Education Sciences Faculty and Principal of Ramallah Women Training Center at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Ramallah- West Bank. She manages and plans for more than twenty-four degree awarding programs and courses offered to a 1000-student college that serves young refugee Palestinian women.

Dr. Al Rifai earned her doctorate from City University of London in the UK and worked as an Assistant Professor at the Public Health Faculty at Al Quds University and as a guest lecturer at the School of Health Professions at Bethlehem University in Palestine. Alongside her academic work in the area of public health policy, planning and evaluation Al Rifai served as a national consultant in the areas of Gender, Reproductive Health, Policy Research, and Programs/Project Evaluation for UN agencies, national and international, governmental and non-governmental organizations working in humanitarian, aid and development in Palestine such as UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNICEF, JICA, and USAID.



Dr. Ghassan A. Faramand

Dr. Ghassan Faramand is professor of business law and founder and director of the Institute of Law at Birzeit University. He has extensive experience in planning, preparing and supervising legal training courses for lawyers, prosecutors and judges. As Professor and legal trainer, he has wide experience in the field of judiciary and legal education and prepared the strategic plan, for teaching law in Palestine, for the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. He has worked with national, international, and UN agencies such as the Governments of Denmark, France and Sweden; AUS/AID; EU; DFID; USAID; UNDP, UNRWA; UNSCO; and the World Bank. He has also an expert in the Palestinian legal framework and has drafted many legislative proposals, manuals and by-laws.

As Director of the Institute of Law he has conducted train-the-trainer courses for 12 judges and developed a judiciary exchange program with Egyptian and Jordanian institutions. Beyond that, he has planned, developed and implemented 40 judicial training courses for judges, prosecutors and support staff and developed a broad array of training materials.

Dr. Faramand holds a doctorate in law from the Bordeaux School of Law in Bordeaux, France and the LLB from the University of Beirut Law School in Lebanon.



Dr. John W. Shumaker

Dr. John W. Shumaker is the Chief of Party of the USAID-funded Palestinian Faculty Development Program for AMIDEAST. Dr. Shumaker has served as a leader in education as professor, senior administrator at The Ohio State University and the University at Albany in the SUNY System. He also spent several years as president at Central Connecticut State University, the University of Louisville and the University of Tennessee. Since 2005, he has served as a senior advisor to ministries of education and higher education in Armenia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Morocco in projects funded by the World Bank, DANIDA, USAID, the Government of Saudi Arabia and the private sector in Rabat and Casablanca.

As a university president Dr. Shumaker was highly successful as a fund raiser and specialist in community engagement, change management, international programs and university-industry relationships for teaching as well as advanced research and knowledge transfer. In recognition of his service to the University of Louisville the university presented its highest award—the Minerva Award—in 2002 and subsequently dedicated the John W. Shumaker Research Building on its main campus in November, 2009.

Before coming to Ramallah, Dr. Shumaker served as team lead of an international group of experts responsible for creating a master plan for a new polytechnic university that will be at the center of a new Green City developed by a large industrial corporation north of Marrakech. Prior to his work in Morocco he was team lead of the Tatweer Strategy Formation Project in Saudi Arabia and served as Chief of Party of the USAID-funded Higher Education Commission/Financial Aid Development program in Pakistan for the Academy for Educational Development. This program involved developing a comprehensive financial aid system for higher education in Pakistan, as well as capacity-building for the Higher Education Commission and 11 universities to raise funds from the private sector for scholarships and other financial assistance programs.

His work at the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education in Kabul, Afghanistan focused on a range of areas including strategic planning, policy development, quality control, financial aid systems, national university entrance examinations, resource development and fund-raising, as well as capacity development.