

**Policy Recommendations of the PHEC Committee to Promote Blended Education in Universities and
Affiliated colleges**

PHEC/Admn/2020 dated March 30, 2020 upon the constitution of the Committee by the PHEC “To formulate policy and oversee the matters related to the provision of online courses, teaching methodology and assessments for learning outcomes in the province during the COVID lockdown period, an online meeting **“to discuss the policy guidelines regarding online education in affiliated colleges”** with the Vice Chancellors was held under the convenorship of Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid, Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission on April 16, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Following Committee Members attended the meeting;

1. Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid Chairman, Punjab Higher Education Commission
2. Prof. Dr. Khalid Masud Gondal VC, King Edward Medical University
3. Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad VC, Information Technology University/PU
4. Prof. Dr. Syed Mansoor Sarwar VC, University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore
5. Prof. Dr. Arshad Ahmad VC, Lahore University of Management Sciences
6. Prof. Dr. Rukhsana David Principal Kinnaird College for Women
7. Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha VC, University of Education
8. Prof. Dr. Naeem Tariq Rector, Virtual University
9. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf VC, University of Agriculture Faisalabad

Following Vice Chancellors were also invited;

10. Major General (R) Obaid Bin Zikria VC, Lahore Garrison University
11. Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad VC, University of Sargodha
12. Prof. Dr. Shabbar Atiq VC, University of Gujrat
13. Prof. Dr. Mansoor Akhbar Kundi VC, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan
14. Prof. Dr. Ather Mehboob VC, Islamia University Bahawulpur

The Convenor welcomed the members and participating Vice Chancellors to the meeting and highlighted the efforts of PHEC to promote collaborative efforts among universities of the Punjab to provide blended and online teaching and learning for the students of the province. After detailed deliberation over the current situation, the committee proposed the following policy recommendations for the universities and faculty to provide online education to the students:

1. PHEC shall facilitate the universities/HEIs and colleges of the Punjab to develop comprehensive plans, implementation strategies and capacity building program for the promotion of online courses and teaching

in the prevailing Corona Virus situation. Focal persons and IT committees in HEIs will coordinate with colleges and provide data for mapping and need assessment for joint collaboration.

2. Comprehensive Training Program for the capacity building of the university/HEIs' faculty and staff shall be initiated immediately to provide quality education through online facility using MS Team, Zoom, Moodle and other softwares.
3. Universities will make efforts to enhance their capacity as well as provide facilitation to other Higher Education Institutes (HEIs), including affiliated colleges, regarding operating with Learning Management System, online course materials, lectures, assessments, knowledge sharing and IT/ICT support. Proper work should be done to utilize already available online courses for the students.
4. Universities should work to develop a comprehensive plan and mechanism for themselves and affiliated colleges to conduct online education and assessments of their students.
5. Good benchmarks and practices of the technologically advanced universities should be adopted. Universities should get support from the distance and online learning system of Virtual University, PU, UET and Lahore University of Management Sciences to improve their capacity and online support to affiliated colleges.
6. Specific Committees shall be constituted to promote Research & Development and develop online education software LMS and Assessment for, pedagogical techniques and assessment methods to adopt digital platforms.
7. Short-term, medium-term and long-term plans shall be devised to strengthen the blended, distance and online education system on permanent basis in the province covering access to MOOCs, Coursera and EdX.
8. Academic think tanks should be invigorated to generate relevant knowledge and measures pertaining to maximize online learning system in the wake of COVID-19.
9. Regular meetings be conducted to promote knowledge sharing and collaboration among the Higher Education Institutions over online and blended learning, and SoPs in health and safety for COVID-19.
10. Awareness on Health and safety guidelines should be promoted through universities.
11. Matters related to provision of help to universities and colleges with regard to the requirements, budget, finances, collaboration, bandwidth, storage capacity, software and hardware needs were assessed.
12. Preliminary assessment by universities shall be conducted to assess the current status and future needs to go online in universities and affiliated colleges.