Have Imported Systems of Quality Assurance Met the Needs of Ministries and Universities in MENA?

Kevin Schoepp
Director of Educational Effectiveness
Zayed University, UAE

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Quality Assurance: The US Model

- Regional accreditation
- Disciplinary accreditation
  - Both based on self-study and peer review
- Emphasis on student learning outcomes, assessment, and on continuous improvement
  - Current tensions between standardized exams and course embedded assessment
  - Accreditation as a lever

Why the US Model?

- Institutional development & history
- Nationality of senior leadership
- Institutional fit
- Prestige and international recognition
- A system that works

MSCHE & Learning Outcomes

Standard 14. Assessment of Student Learning:

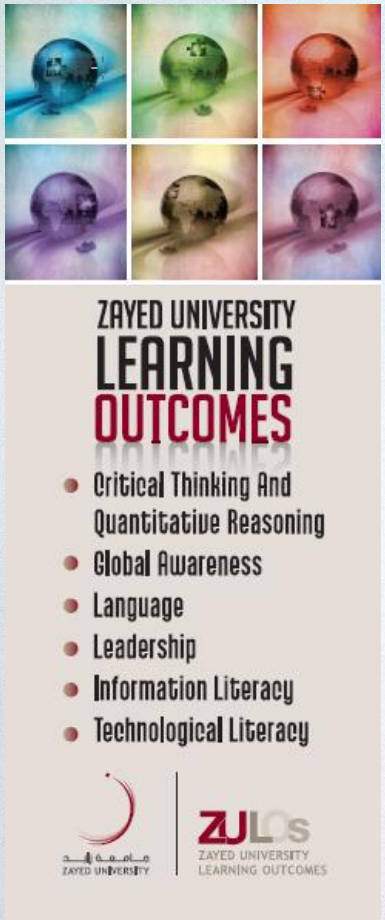
Assessment of student learning demonstrates that, at graduation, or other appropriate points, the institution's students have knowledge, skills, and competencies consistent with institutional and appropriate higher education goals.

1. Have clear and measureable learning outcomes
2. Have opportunities for students to achieve the outcomes
3. Assess the outcomes
4. Use results to improve teaching and learning

How does the US Model fit?

- Good fit, but contextualization important
  - Leadership
  - Gender segregation
  - Academic freedom
- Non Applicable
- Faculty education
- Focus on learning outcomes & assessment is powerful

Zayed University Learning Outcomes



- **Language:** ZU graduates will be able to communicate effectively in English and Modern Standard Arabic, using the academic and professional conventions of these languages appropriately.
- **Technological Literacy:** ZU graduates will be able to effectively understand, use, and evaluate technology both ethically and securely in an evolving global society.
- **Critical Thinking and Quantitative Reasoning**: ZU graduates will be able to use both critical and quantitative processes to solve problems and to develop informed opinions.
- **Information Literacy**: ZU graduates will be able to find, evaluate, and use appropriate information from multiple sources to respond to a variety of needs.
- **Global Awareness**: ZU graduates will be able to understand and value their own culture and other cultures, perceiving and reacting to differences from an informed and socially responsible point of view.
- **Leadership:** ZU graduates will be able to undertake leadership roles and responsibilities, interacting effectively with others to accomplish shared goals.

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