

## Communication Studies Training Seminar in Goa, India

Training Dates: Dec. 28-Jan. 7, 2018

Location: Goa, India

### Partnership Objective:

This academic capacity building programs/visit is part of the partnership between Kabul and Balkh Universities and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). Through this partnership, the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), as U.S. partner institution, is assisting both Kabul and Balkh University in establishing a new Departments of Communication Studies.

Communication Studies degree is not only a unique full degree program in Afghanistan abut also in the region since no other higher education institution offers a full undergraduate degree program in Communication Studies that focuses on relationship between human beings, be they professional, cultural or interpersonal. This department will be housed in Kabul University's College (faculty) of Languages and Literature and Balkh University's College (faculty) of Journalism and Mass Communication.

The Goa training seminar was part of our third country training initiatives that are planned in lieu of the Afghan faculty's visit to the United States. Both Afghan and American faculty meet at a third country location such as India for trainings and meetings.

The purpose of this academic training in Goa was to assist Kabul and Balkh University faculty start the initial academic and administrative programs and activities required to establish the department of Communication Studies at their respective universities.

The agenda for this training included:

- Discussions about online theory course
- Syllabus development for 10 classes
- Discussion about teaching materials
- Professional faculty development
- Presentation of teaching styles by UNO
- Teaching methodology
- Content for 6 online theory classes
- Presentation of 7 classes
- Assessment process
- Conducting research and the research process

As planned, 16 faculty members from Kabul and Balkh Universities attended this training program. Four UNO team members who traveled to India conducted the training. UNO team members offered power point presentations and lead discussions concerning the topics mentioned above.



During this seminar the UNO helped set up all the different accounts used to deliver information. These accounts included Canvas, a portal used for teaching online classes. We also established the UNO library guest accounts for those faculty members who did not have library accounts. These accounts will give the Afghan faculty full access to all the resources available at UNO Dr. C.C. and Mable L. Criss Library.

We had also discussed the research process in the US and how to conduct research. The Afghan faculty were all asked to submit research questions to their UNO mentors and see if there is a chance to collaborate on research together.



This seminar was very successful. The faculty of Kabul and Balkh University attended 9 days of seminars covering a wide array of material. Afghan and American faculty who attended the seminars were able to learn a lot from each other. It was a great learning and team building opportunity for the attendees. The feedback received was that this seminar was very helpful to the attendees and they appreciated the time spend together.

