

## Communication Studies Training Seminar in Mumbai, India

Training Dates: June 23-July 1, 2018

Location: Mumbai, India

### Partnership Objective:

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

The Communication Studies degree is not only a unique full degree program in Afghanistan but also in the region since no other higher education institution offers a full undergraduate degree program in Communication Studies that focuses on relationships between human beings, be they professional, cultural or interpersonal.

The Mumbai 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 met at a third country location such as India for trainings and meetings.



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

The agenda for this training included:

- Finalize teaching materials for the 9 identified subject course materials
- Listen to and critique mini-lectures by BU faculty members to improve presentation and lecturing skills
- Conduct ongoing consultation and program management
- Conduct further training in research methodology for BU faculty members
- Identify specific research topics to conduct joint research project between UNO/BU and KU
- Finalize the mentor relationship between BU and UNO faculty members.
- Finalize the BU and KU curriculum and celebrate the successful transfer of knowledge.



As planned, 9 faculty members from Balkh University and 7 faculty members from Kabul University attended this training program. Eight UNO team members who traveled to India conducted the training. UNO team members offered power point presentations and lead group and one on one discussions concerning the topics mentioned above.

During this seminar we also discussed the next steps for the finalizing this degree program. We also came up with an action plan for how to move forward and to help identify what areas the UNO, Balkh and Kabul University professors need to work on. One of the suggestions was to make a list of goals or objectives that we wish to cover in the next seminar for Kabul University.

This seminar was very successful. The faculty of Balkh and Kabul University attended 8 full 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.

