

NED University Deteriorating Standards Part II

Dr . Aamir A. Farooqui
Mountain View
CA 94043
aamirf@hotmail.com

Dear Respected VC, Dean, and Chairmen
NED University of Engg. & Tech
Karachi,
Pakistan.

CC:

- 1. Respected President of Pakistan and Governor Sindh for immediate action to save the future of young engineers and premier Institution of Sindh.**
- 2. Respected Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman sahib to stop any PhD funding for NED and cancel bogus PhD degrees.**
- 3. Pakistan Engineering Council, for the with-drawl of recognition of NED University.**
- 4. Different mailing lists and student organizations.**

I am writing this email with reference to my earlier email on the same topic [i]. This time I hope that all of you will realize the seriousness of the problems faced by NED and take necessary actions for their rectification. At the same time the concerned authorities should take action against them in the best interest of NED.

Respected VC on your request I am sending this letter directly to you [i], and the rest of the world. I do not think in this age of internet, your friend Mr. Cowasjee (a strong pillar of yellow journalism) can help you. I will take every action to send this letter to the whole world or the High Court should take suo-moto action for playing with the future of the highest quality youth of Pakistan.

NED accepts the best undergraduate students with outstanding academic ranking, yet after four years of education they receive at the University they find themselves struggling with their careers. Graduating students soon realize that their engineering degree has no value or recognition - neither in the industry to help them secure good jobs nor in the academic institutions world over to continue higher education. Following is the charge sheet compiled against the wrong doings.

1. Education:

I recently interviewed around 25 students of NED who recently graduated in Electronics and Computer Engineering, all having above 80% marks including position holders. However, I am sorry to say that none were able to answer the basic questions on:

- State machines,
- Mealy Moore machines,

- Assembly language or
- C language

On further queries they informed that they were not taught these topics in their studies. This is a serious issue, these are the basics of Electrical, Electronics, and Computer Engineering.

I do not know how the university is allowed to give degrees without teaching these basic concepts. Following is the excerpt from PEC's web site: <http://www.pec.org.pk/roles-resp.asp>

“Functions of The Council

The main functions of the Pakistan Engineering Council are given below:

Promotion of engineering education and review of courses of studies in consultation with the Universities.”

Following was revealed to me by an NED teacher, “The courses followed at NED are very old. Grey heads are conducting 30 year old lectures. One teacher admitted in front of me that the assignment he is giving to me to solve was prepared in 1979. There is no check on the teacher what he teaches. Most of the teachers are not following the latest trends”

I would like to know who is responsible for creating / updating the syllabus in NED?

When was the syllabus last updated?

How many experts were involved in that process outside NED?

2. Research and Development:

The university does not believe on Research and Publications. I remember someone from the university administration mention that publications are not important for a university of NED's caliber. YES, certificate / diploma granting institutions do not require publications, BUT universities ratings are judged based on publications.

My proposal which was rejected by Respected VC (due to lack of understanding / knowledge / personal grudge) was presented to Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology (SSUET) administration and they whole heartedly accepted the proposal without any modifications. In his letter to HEC dated January 29th, 2008 [see attachment ii], the Respected VC not only bluntly / shamelessly refused the proposal, but used inappropriate language for anyone who comes his way. This letter clearly shows his skill set is inappropriate for a VC of a degree granting university.

By the Grace of Allah, the Research Centre at SSUET has been very successful and has published papers in a very short period of time. **Therefore, SSUET rating is now higher than that of NED.**

3. PhD degrees without a single publication

When the university can not conduct proper undergraduate studies and there is no research standing of the university, then how can NED offer PhD degrees. The VC accepts that 3 PhDs from the university are working in the university. This shows the standard of NED and its PhD(s). In US, normally universities do not hire their own PhD graduates due to several reasons, which, the Respected VC is not aware of.

On further inquiry it was revealed to me that NED is offering a PhD degree without a single publication. The doctoral program of the university has no value as there are no qualified professors who are involved in active research. Even MS students are forced to work under professors who have not published a single research paper in their life.

A PhD scholar requires at least few publications, I know at least one example of a CIS PhD scholar who was cleared in the exam without any publication. I do not know how did the professors analyzed her work, perhaps they did not even know what she was doing in her research work.

2. Qualified Teachers

The number of good teachers is decreasing day by day as VC does not like qualified teachers who raise their voices in front of him. Grey head masters of NED have created an atmosphere, that no foreign qualified faculty is willing to join the university. If they try, they get so much opposition from the bureaucracy that they often choose not to come.

1. NED Website

During the VC tenure, the university is unable to improve its image even through its website.

3. ISO Certification

Why the tax payers money was spent on ISO certification? How many universities in the world have ISO certification. This is an educational institution not shipyard workshop which requires ISO certification. A high level inquiry is needed to find out how much money was spent and who were the people who benefited from this useless exercise.

1. Construction Contracts

There are some University employees, who also have construction companies registered in the University and they often get projects of construction on campus. They approve their own company proposal. I hope the authorities will probe into this matter as well.

4. VC Qualification

- a) How can a VC of the university be without a PhD degree, when a PhD is required for an assistant Professor. This immediately disqualifies the VC for his job. I heard the VC Engineering degree is also questionable.
- b) Is there a dearth of young talent in Pakistan that 80+ years old person is the VC, when the retiring age in Pakistan is 60 years. There is something seriously wrong and should be corrected immediately.

- c) Vice chancellor only follows the recommendation of a few employees of university who stay around him all the time. Who are these people that make all the decisions without consulting from the heads of the concerned departments.

I believe Respected VC is responsible for the degradation of NED's standard. Due to the mis-management of the Respected VC, NED students are refused admissions in the Universities of USA. I would like to know how many NED Alumni were admitted to Stanford, Berkeley, or MIT etc. in the past 3 years. I can give you the answer is zero. Anyone who applies from NED immediately gets rejected even with high GRE or TOEFL scores due its reputation.

Based on the above hard facts:

I request Governor Sindh to take immediate action and save the university.

I request the HEC to immediately stop NED's funding, and hold a high level inquiry to investigate all these matters.

I also request PEC to play its role as mentioned below.

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<http://www.pec.org.pk/roles-resp.asp>

“With-drawl of Recognition

The Council has been assigned the power to withdraw recognition of a qualification in case it is proved that the qualification does not impart knowledge and skill requisite for the efficient practice of engineering.”

ⁱ <http://www.pakistanlink.com/Opinion/2004/Dec04/17/04.htm>

“One of the example of such case is that a proposal had been presented by myself for setting up a research center in NED with the help of his friends and companies in the Silicon Valley, USA. The idea was to attract students to conduct research in emerging technologies so that they could keep abreast of changing trends in the high-tech industry. But from the NED University, no reply was received for six months. On his follow-up of the proposal through the Higher Education Commission, he received a lengthy charge sheet from the Vice Chancellor of the NED University through an email message and later through registered mail at his office in California.”



A. Kalam C.Eng.

M.A., B.Sc., F.I.E.T.
F.I. Mech. E., F.C.I.L.T
VICE-CHANCELLOR

**NED UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY ROAD, KARACHI-75270, PAKISTAN**

Tel: (92-21) 9261253, 9261262-68/2242
Fax: (92-21) 9261205
E-mail: vc@neduet.edu.pk
Website: <http://www.neduet.edu.pk>

No. NED/RP/1057
January 29, 2008

My dear Chairman,

Sub: Establishment of Research Institute
Ref: Your DO No. 1-2/CVHR/HEC/08/221 dated 26th January 2008

1. Yes, an offer was received from Zeeshan Zia to set up one Research Institute at this university. Not only did that individual fail to explain what kind of Research Institute was to be established i.e. in which Faculties/disciplines Research work was envisaged but he also referred to "Deteriorating Standards at NED University". Faculty Members in this University took serious exception to this expression and so did I as well. Besides this, there is no room for any Institute in this University; the offer was refused. I accept personal responsibility for this decision!
2. The trouble with some of these supercilious NED Alumni abroad is that they keep on harping about conditions which existed when they were in this University several years earlier; they seem to be totally incapable of understanding that conditions are no longer what they were in the years before 1997. The NED University now has twenty-one undergraduate disciplines (19 in Engineering plus one each in Architecture and Computer Science). The Civil Engineering Department alone has received 1.318 million dollars in Research Grants from the National Science Foundation of USA for three Research Projects. There are now 50 Doctorate qualified Faculty out of whom three (3) earned their Doctorates from this University! Not only are there 21 undergraduate disciplines – with demands from industries and utilities for these graduates but there are also twenty Master's Degree programmes which are extremely popular. There are also Alumni like Shoaib Ahmed of the Concrete Institute USA who care for this University, came here to see things for himself and then offered help. Such offers are appreciated and promptly accepted.
3. These rather supercilious NED Alumni who say that they are concerned do not however care to find out what conditions actually exist. They also shoot off letters / E-mails to your address – sometimes also to the PEC; that however does not bother us; this University continues to do its work on its planned basis. Why can they not write to this University?
4. One copy of this letter is being sent to Dr. Aamer Alam Farooqi and also e-mailed to that "Character" Zeeshan Zia.
5. I hope the information given above would suffice, if any more is required, kindly let me know.

With respects

Yours sincerely,

A. Kalam
29/01/2008

A. Kalam
Vice-Chancellor

Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, N.I., FRS
Chairman
Higher Education Commission
Islamabad