



Executive Summary
Renewal of Licensure
RAK Medical and Health Sciences University

March 22 – 24, 2017

An External Review Team (hereafter ERT) visited the RAK Medical and Health Sciences University (RAKMHSU) from 22 to 27 March 2017, to evaluate the *Self-Study* (hereafter the *Self-Study*) for Renewal of Licensure.

RAKMHSU was founded and received Initial Licensure in 2006, offering the MBBS and the BDS. Classes were first offered in the fall of 2006. Additional programs in Pharmacy (B Pharm) and nursing (BSN) were introduced in 2007 with a RN-BSN Bridge Program added in 2008-09. Subsequently RAKMHSU added graduate programs in nursing and in pharmaceutical sciences. All programs are accredited. After initial licensure, RAKMHSU received a renewal of its licensure in 2012. That renewal expires in 2017; this Application is for Renewal of Licensure.

RAKMHSU currently has 1331 students with 98 full-time teaching faculty, 100 non-teaching staff, and 119 adjunct faculty. Using information gleaned from the Fact Book and the presentation made by the Vice-Chancellor at the start of the visit, it is clear that RAKMHSU serves an international and diverse population. In the College of Medicine, the largest single group of students is from India whereas in the College of Dentistry the largest group is from Syria. Other Colleges are similarly diverse.

The *Self-Study* was insufficiently analytical and supporting evidence of actions taken and improvements made over time were not easily located in the supporting material. During the visit RAKMHSU provided materials and information, in addition to presentation and interviews with staff, faculty and students, which enabled the RLRT to locate evidence, and evaluate and verify the status of compliance with all *Standards*. It is expected that the approach to requisite self-studies will be rectified in future applications for Renewal of Licensure and for future Program Accreditations.

There are a number of institutional level strengths identified by the RLRT which include the development of appropriate facilities for delivery of the programs, support services and for the recreational activities of the students. The buildings are of high quality, well maintained and with adequate space for current programs and future expansion. New laboratories are in place to support the research effort but funding is required to provide the necessary equipment,

research personnel and to operate the specialist projects in health sciences. The RLRT found evidence of effective leadership across the institution and a complement of faculty that are perceived by the diverse student population as professional, accessible and friendly. There is further support for students through a comprehensive range of student services and an IT infrastructure that is serving the students, colleges and administrative functions, very well.

There are a number of areas for attention and for reaching full compliance with the *Standards*.

The membership and scope of expertise on the Governing Board requires attention to provide a more comprehensive range of expertise for planning and decision-making. This should also be supported by advice coming from an Advisory Board which is a requirement of the *Standards*.

A few essential policies are missing and others are insufficiently detailed. There are also procedural matters to attend to in Human Resources, most notably the rectification of Equivalency status of faculty qualifications from the MoE, which is currently in process but must be pursued to complete the exercise in timely manner.

RAKMHSU is well aware of the need to increase its research activity and output. In addition to funding requirements there is need for direction from carefully considered and documented Research Strategies at institutional and college level, involving the existing Research Committee.

RAKMHSU has established a number of collaborative arrangements with external bodies, industries and institutions, both in the UAE and internationally. The nature and purpose of all these arrangements needs clarification and documentation so that their purpose is clear to internal and external stakeholders, including current and potential students. The merits and contributions of affiliated organizations towards the RAKMHSU mission need to be kept under regular review in accord with the *Standards*.

The RLRT makes its requirements and offers its suggestions in a spirit of constructive engagement, with the aim of ensuring that the *Standards* are met, and to aid RAKMHSU to receive Renewal of Licensure. Our requirements and suggestions can, and should, be viewed as “Opportunities for Improvement” as RAKMHSU progresses towards excellence in education and research.