



Executive Summary
Renewal of Licensure
Emirates College for Advanced Education

October 27-30, 2019

A Renewal of Licensure Review Team (RLRT) visited Emirates College for Advanced Education (ECAE) from 27 to 30 October 2019 to review the *Self-Study* for the renewal of institutional licensure. The exit interview was held on October 30, 2019.

Established as a teachers' training college for Abu Dhabi by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, by Law No. 17 of 2007, "*Emirates College for Advanced Education (ECAE) is an Abu Dhabi Government higher education institute affiliated with Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK)*". The mandate of ECAE is to support the higher education strategy of Abu Dhabi and the UAE by providing "future generations with high quality education to drive the economy". The College currently offers five Master's degree (M.Ed.), Programs, three Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) programs, and three Doctoral (Ph.D.) programs in education.

In academic year 2018-19 ECAE enrolled 176 students, of which 166 students are female. The Bachelor of Education program enrolled 130 students while the remaining 46 students were distributed among the masters, PGD, and Ph.D. programs. 51 are in the graduate program. Over the years, a total of 781 students have graduated from ECAE. Five hundred ninety-two students with bachelors and 189 with graduate degrees. The total number of faculty members employed at ECAE at the time of the visit is 29. Fifteen faculty members are male and 14 are female.

ECAE is an experienced provider of higher education in the field of education in the UAE. It has enviable levels of strategic and financial support which are likely to prove critical as it evolves from a mixed undergraduate/graduate College to a solely graduate provision. The closure of the undergraduate program and the emergence of a spectrum of graduate programs in the last few years now presents a range of challenges and opportunities.

The RLRT were impressed by the strategic leadership of ECAE and the willingness to embrace a range of new developments including a branch campus in Ajman and an impending move to a new campus with a longer aspiration for a purpose-built campus on new land. Some of these developments will require CAA approval in the form of 'substantive changes'.

Supporting these advances is an intention to grow faculty numbers by around 50%. This presents its own challenges as ECAE seeks to cultivate and develop its own research profile. Whilst some impressive foundations for this have been laid, there is work required to align all requisite policies and processes to ensure research productivity develops appropriately. Aside from research, IT infrastructure and support will also come into sharp focus as the Ajman operations develop and planned non-UAE expansions progresses.

Faculty are very well resourced and demonstrate a longevity of commitment to the institution. The RLRT were very impressed by the significant commitment put in by faculty and staff to support learning and to make the ECAE experience a memorable one. Workloads are all satisfactory and support for conducting and reporting research enviable. Staff and other resources are also appropriate to supporting the endeavors of the institution, although these will need to evolve as developments come on-stream e.g. international scholarships. IT provision is excellent and the connections between Abu Dhabi and Ajman exemplary in supporting learning.

Students past and present hold the institution in high regard, as do employers. There is, however, a collective feeling that the loss of the unique undergraduate provision may not be in the best strategic interests of the College or the wider UAE. The RLRT have significant empathy with such views whilst also accepting that the decision is not an institutional one.

As with any accreditation review there are areas that would benefit from some tightening and sharpening of focus. Central to these are ensuring a robust and timed action plan to deliver the growth in student recruitment that will ultimately underpin good pedagogic learning and build a sustainable institution. There is also a real need to demonstrate an analytical and critical reflexive engagement in responding to the requirements, as well as to future accreditation events. The third particularly important element for action is the need to tighten documentary controls to ensure consistency across all ECAE publications and processes. Collectively we wish the College well in their undertakings and look forward to witnessing a growing and successful future.

The RLRT makes its recommendations in a spirit of constructive engagement, with the aim of ensuring that the *Standards* are met, and to aid ECAE in its desired objective to get renewal of licensure.