



جامعة العين
AL AIN UNIVERSITY

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— STAFF — HANDBOOK

2023 - 2024

AQAS
ARABIAN QUALITY ASSURANCE
AGENCY



CAEP
Council for the
Accreditation of
Educator Preparation



Engineering
Accreditation
Commission



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AL AIN UNIVERSITY

STAFF HANDBOOK

2023-2024



المغفور له بإذن الله الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان

تغمده الله بواسع رحمته

SHEIKH ZAYED BIN SULTAN AL NAHYAN



المغفور له بإذن الله الشيخ خليفة بن زايد آل نهيان
تغمده الله بواسع رحمته

SHEIKH KHALIFA BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN



صاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن زايد آل نهيان

رئيس دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة

HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



صاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم
نائب رئيس الدولة - رئيس مجلس الوزراء، حاكم دبي

HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM
VICE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER AND RULER OF DUBAI



Welcome Message from the President

Dear administrative staff,

I would like to welcome everyone to the new academic year. Under current circumstances, we have prioritized both safety and quality of education despite prevailing challenges. Your ongoing dedication and hard work have been proven throughout the years of the university growth thanks to your teamwork spirit, collaboration and strong determination.

I would like to welcome the new staff members who have recently joined us. The start of a new academic year is always a unique time on our campuses when new students and faculty join our community. We are delighted to recruit qualified faculty members whose diverse areas of expertise, dedication, and distinction in teaching and research will define our institution.

Whether recruiting faculty or staff members, registering new and returning students, administering and building upon the university's infrastructure, or even maintaining the image of the university at its highest standards; none of these would have been achieved without your hard work. You are the university's backbone, strategic planners and developers whose professionalism is being continuously observed by the faculty and students.

Because you are the core of AAU, a whole host of responsibilities falls in your domains as you encounter the challenges of higher education requirements. Besides training and professional development, it takes perseverance, patience and high skill to excel in your duties, which reflects the university's image in the UAE.

This is a thrilling time in the history of AAU, as we embark in opportunities and challenges to come. I am sincerely appreciative of each one of you for your contributions and commitment to serving our students in their pursuit of quality education. I am honored and proud to lead AAU which is the home of such a remarkable and talented community.

Sincerely,

Prof. Ghaleb A. El-Refae
AAU President



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AL AIN UNIVERSITY

Overview

Established in 2004, Al Ain University (AAU) opened the doors to its first student cohort in 2005. Constantly innovating, AAU expanded its facilities by opening a second campus in Abu Dhabi in 2008, offering programs in Business and Law. Having begun with three colleges (Engineering, Business, Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences), the University has continued to expand its program offerings which now include 17 undergraduate programs across six colleges (Engineering, Pharmacy, Law, Education, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Business and Communication and Media), 8 Master's programs, and 1 Professional Diploma in Teaching program.

AAU is licensed to operate under the auspices of the UAE Ministry of Education (MoE). AAU continues to successfully seek international accreditation of its programs by respected educational bodies. The College of Engineering programs ("B.Sc. in Networks & Communication Engineering", "B.Sc in Computer Engineering" and "B.Sc. in Software Engineering") are accredited by (ABET). The "Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy" program has the distinction of being the first in UAE to be certified by (ACPE). Moreover, the "Bachelor of Law" has been accredited by (HCERES), the College of Business accredited by the (AACSB), and the "Bachelor of Mass Communication and Media" program has been accredited by (AQAS), respectively.

AAU Vision

AAU aspires to be amongst the leading learning centers in the region, by achieving international quality standards in Teaching, Research, and Community Engagement.

AAU Mission

AAU strives to be a learning center of excellence that responds to market needs and prepares graduates who possess the scientific and technological competencies that are needed for their careers. The university plays an active role in the creation of knowledge through quality teaching and research. It values Community Engagement and nurtures partnerships with institutions and organizations through a commitment to the educational, technological, and economic development of the country and the region.

AAU Values

The strategic decisions and daily operations of AAU faculty and staff draw on the following values:

1. Collaboration
2. Diversity
3. Excellence
4. Respect
5. Integrity



Introduction

At AAU, our objective is to provide the employees with a positive and safe work environment along with equal opportunities of learning by experience and career development. The Staff Handbook is designed to provide staff with information about working conditions, benefits, and responsibilities.

The information contained in this Handbook applies to all administrative employees. Following the information described in this handbook is considered a condition of continued employment and development of staff. However, this Handbook is presented as a matter of information only, and its contents should not be interpreted as a contract between the University and any of its employees.

Please read this Handbook carefully, as one of an employee's first responsibilities is to be familiar with its content.

The Handbook is a summary of our policies, which are presented here only as a matter of information. Employees should review complete policies with their managers or the Human Resources Unit if any questions arise.

In case if you have a query which is not answered in this Handbook, in your offer letter/contract, or not supported by the University's internal documents/decisions, such a query will be handled as per UAE's Labor Law No. (08) of 1980.

We wish you continued success in your career.

1. Definition and categories of staff

1: Professional Staff:

Professional staff is defined as having the required preparation and specialized knowledge in a specific field and in exercising independent professional judgment. These individuals are predominately responsible for the management, operation, and implementation of policies and procedures which support the AAU's mission.

2: Support Staff:

Support staff includes employees who provide clerical, technical, maintenance, and administrative support to the University.

3: Academic Staff:

Academic staff includes the professionals who are responsible for planning, directing and undertaking academic teaching, research and community engagement activities in the university.

4: Non Academic Staff:

Non academic staff is defined as those who have to perform work assignments other than teaching.

5: Full Time Staff:

Full time staff is defined as the person who undertakes his/her duty for no less than 40 hours a week. Full time staff is registered at the Ministry of Labor and has an employment contract stipulating tenure of contract, specific benefits including but not limited to fixed salaries, annual leaves, health insurance, etc.

6: Part Time Staff:

Part time staff is defined as the person who undertakes the duty for less than 40 hours a week. Usually part time staff is paid on hourly basis.



2. Personnel management

Personnel management addresses work week, attendance, overtime and leave policy.

2.1 Work Week:

All the employees are supposed to work 5 days a week from Monday to Friday.

2.2 Attendance:

- The normal working hours of the AAU shall be:

Monday to Thursday: 08:00 – 17:30

Friday: 8:00 – 12 :00

Saturday and Sunday: Off

- Employees are entitled to a 30-minute lunch break between 12:30 and 1:30.
- Any employee signing in after 8:10 is considered «Late».
- In case the employee is late, he/she needs to inform the direct supervisor as well as the HR Unit.
- Employees have an obligation to attend work as scheduled, and supervisors have an obligation to manage and address attendance issues.
- Hours of work will vary during the Ramadan period and employees shall not be entitled to lunch breaks during this time.

2.3 Overtime:

- An employee works for 8 and half hours a day including a 30-minute break; overtime hours are calculated for the extra hours he/she works or the work done outside working hours.
- The overtime rate is 1.25 hours for every hour after the regular 8 hours in a single working day.
- If the employee is assigned to do overtime, an approved form, obtained from HRU, has to be filled by the direct supervisor; it has to be approved by the HRU and AAU administration prior to doing the overtime.
- An employee assigned to work outside official working hours needs to document that on a daily basis in a record as per the designated form; it has to be approved by the direct supervisor on a daily basis provided it is submitted to the HR Unit during the first ten days of every month.
- The monthly overtime remuneration for any employee should not exceed, in any case, a quarter of his/her total monthly salary.
- If an employee happens to work during a holiday, the overtime compensation will be 1.5 hours for every hour of work provided the total hours on holidays do not exceed 8 hours a day. This shall be recorded in the designated form; the same procedures for regular overtime apply.
- No employee may be assigned to work for more than two consecutive weekend days in a month.

2.4 Leaves:

1- Annual Leave

- Employees are not allowed to be absent from work without getting prior written approval.
- The employee will be granted an annual leave of 30 days for each year.

2- Unpaid Leave

- Any leave during the probation period is considered an unpaid leave.
- An employee will be granted an unpaid leave only after using all annual leave days, and it will only be during the summer.
- The maximum duration of an unpaid leave is 30 days and is only granted during the summer.

3- Sick Leave

- An employee is granted a sick leave of no more than 90 days, consecutive or intermittent, for each year of service. The employee needs to present a medical report issued by official hospitals; the sick leave will be divided as follows:
 - ✓ 15 days – paid
 - ✓ 30 days – half-paid
 - ✓ The rest – unpaid
- The sick leave is granted after the completion of the probation period.
- The sick leave is to be reported on the same day of absence.

4- Hajj Leave

- An employee is granted a paid leave of one week for Hajj.

5- Maternity Leave

- The female worker shall be entitled to a maternity leave of (60) sixty days, according to the following:
 - a. The first (45) forty-five days with full wage.
 - b. (15) fifteen additional days right after maternity leave with half wage. (if needed).

6- Paternity Leave

- The paternity leave is granted to staff members for five working days, effective from the baby's date of birth until 6 months.

7- Bereavement (Emergency) leaves

The bereavement leave is granted due to extenuating circumstances such as death of a first degree relative, as per below details:

- a. five days leave, in case of death of the husband or wife
- b. three days leave in case of death of the mother, father, son, brother, sister, grandson, grandfather or grandmother, starting from the date of death.



3. Recruitment

The objective of the Recruitment policy is to define the basic principles to be used to ensure that the right applicants are recruited for the right positions and the recruited employees possess the required qualification, experience, set of skills and knowledge to perform their job effectively and efficiently.

3.1: Recruitment Regulations:

- The Human Resources Unit is responsible for the coordination of all procedures involved in the recruitment process.
- AAU shall give preference to UAE national over non national and internal candidate over external provided they are equally qualified.
- The successful applicant must fulfill the following requirements:
 - ✓ To be physically fit and free from transferable diseases.
 - ✓ To have good conduct and behavior.
 - ✓ To have not convicted any crime such as theft, fraud, embezzlement, forgery, bribery, or any other offense against public decency or morality or disciplinary punishment for reasons of honor or honesty.
 - ✓ To fulfill the minimum qualification and experience criteria for the position.
 - ✓ To pass the scheduled interviews and any other test conducted by HR Unit.

3.2: Recruitment of immediate relatives of the employees:

- AAU does not permit to employ immediate relatives of staff. However, this may occur on the occasion if it is in the best interest of AAU and after special approval from senior management.
- There must not be direct/indirect reporting of an employee to the relative.
- Any areas that may pose a conflict of interest need to be identified and sorted out during the recruitment process.

3.3: Sources for recruitment:

AAU uses the following sources for recruitment:

- Announcement of the vacancies is done through the AAU official website.
- Internal Recruitments, if applicable.
- AAU's own alumni database.
- Advertising in the newspapers and other media.
- Recruitment agencies.
- Participation in the career fairs.

3.4: Interviewing:

Once applications are received and the most suitable candidates are screened, they are interviewed as follows:

- ✓ In the first phase, the HR Unit will interview the applicants, and shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by the selection committee.
- ✓ The selection committee consists of the relevant department head and another member of the department.
- ✓ During the interview, the selection committee should not answer any questions related to compensation/salary; such questions must be forwarded to the HR Unit.

3.5: Selection and offer of employment:

Once the selection of the candidate is completed, the HR Unit shall issue the offer letter in accordance with the approved format and duly signed by the authorized signatory.

If the candidate accepts the offer and signs off the offer letter, the HR Unit shall inform him/her of the required paper work to be done including filling different forms, and submission of personal and educational credentials.

As per the requirements of the relevant department, the HR unit shall inform the candidate of the start date of duty.

3.6: Orientation of new staff:

The University recognizes the need and importance of orientation .The customized Orientation schedule strives to achieve the following objectives:

- To welcome the employee to the Al Ain University.
- To help the new employee develop a positive working relationship by building a foundation of knowledge about the University's history, mission, vision, values, and culture.
- To help the new employees to understand their roles and how their contributions help achieve the University's goals.
- To provide information on the University's policies, procedures, and benefits.
- To offer resources, help, and growth for each employee.
- To create a sense of excitement about their new job.

AAU uses a comprehensive set of activities for orientation purposes that include Pre- commencement Checklist and Induction Checklist. Following are the main activities to be performed:

- The HR Unit prepares for the anticipated arrival of the new employee.
- The HR Unit welcomes the new employee by emailing New Employee information to everyone at AAU.



- The new employee is invited to attend a Benefit and Records session.
- The HR Unit will introduce the new employee to different departments that will provide functional support from time to time.
- The new employee is sent to the Head of Department/Manager who introduces the employee to the position, department, and co-workers.
- After receiving the username and system login information, the new employee attends the orientation sessions separately conducted by systems support staff, library support staff etc.
- The new employee and Department head return the completed and signed checklists to the HR Unit.
- The employment refers to the campus of recruitment; however, the services are subject to inter-department or inter-campus transfers.

3.7: Cultural Adaptation:

United Arab Emirates holds a diversified portfolio with successful achievements in various industries. This breathtaking oasis in the middle of the desert is a union of seven emirates namely, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al-Quwain, R'as al-Khaimah and Fujairah. UAE came into being on 2nd December 1971. Apart from Arabic as its official language and Islam, the way of life, UAE welcomes people of varied nationalities to practice their cultures while respecting their boundaries.

Culture of the UAE: As UAE is an amalgam of people from many diversified cultures, the living environment of this country is adaptable, relatable and very comfortable for many expatriates. Although there is a freedom but UAE firmly holds deep-rooted beliefs in Islam and practices its teachings undisputedly. The primary goal of the rulers of this nation is to safeguard and promote the religion of Islam while accommodating economic growth.

UAE Demographics: United Arab Emirates occupies a total area of 83,600 km² and shares its border with KSA, Qatar and Oman. It has the seventh largest oil reserves in the world and it is very responsible in handling its environmental aspects. The UAE is an active leading country in the field of clean and renewable energy worldwide. Its immense efforts culminated by choosing Abu Dhabi to host the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy (Irena).

Climate: As the UAE is situated in the deserts of Middle East it faces the harshest summers around the globe. The summer season in UAE spans almost eight months with July and August having the extreme temperatures. Many indoor facilities and activities are organized with respect to the seasons and these are highly appreciated.

Education: In the field of education the UAE is successfully striving to match the standards of some of the best educational hubs in the world. The government invests heavily in ensuring that all the requirements are met.

Health: Health sector receives great attention as the UAE is determined to ensure the safety of all its residents. There are private hospitals and clinics. Health insurance is mandatory for all expatriates and their dependents. Under

federal law, every Emirati and expatriate in the country will be covered by compulsory health insurance under a unified mandatory scheme.

Holy Month of Ramadan: Ramadan is a respectable holy month and it is observed with great zest and zeal. This month of fasting restricts all Muslims from eating, drinking and any other inappropriate dealings from dawn till sunset. In respect of the requirements of Ramadan most eating hangouts are closed in the daytime. Work hours are reduced during Ramadan usually to six hours a day.

Cultural Cuisine: Just as its culture the Emirati cuisine is also cosmopolitan. The influence of varying cultures has also impacted their cuisine therefore it appears as a blend of Middle Eastern and Asian cuisine. Emiratis retain their essence by welcoming guests with dates and gahwa (Arabic coffee). These are kept available through the guest's visit. Pork is prohibited in Islam so it is ensured that it is not included in Arab menu while meat, fish and rice are the staple foods of the Emirati cuisine.

Sports: Football is the most popular sport. Emirati football clubs Al-Ain, Al-Wasl, Al-Shabbab ACD, Al-Sharjah, Al-Wahda, and Al-Ahli are the most popular teams and enjoy the reputation of long-time regional champions. Other popular sports include Cricket, Camel Racing, Falconry, Endurance Riding, and Tennis. UAE Dressing: The UAE society follows its dress code strictly. Emirati men and women can easily be distinguished by their traditional dressings such as the Kandura and the women wear an Abaya. The dress code in Dubai is generally liberal however, as a mark of respect; it is advisable to abide by the following:

- For women: knees, shoulders and midribs should be covered. No tight or revealing clothing should be worn.
- For men: not allowed to be bare chested, preferably long trousers with Shirt.
- Visitors are required to behave accordingly and to respect and abide the law.

General Behaviors towards men and women

- Most Arab and Muslim women don't shake hands with men. If women offer to shake hands then it is appropriate to do so but the decision is left upon her.
- Greeting men and shaking hand with men is acceptable but any questions relating to their family should be avoided.
- Separate service areas are organized for women in banks, immigration and hospitals and men are not allowed to enter.
- Taking a photo with men and women is illegal, except if he/she agrees.

4. Probationary period

The standard probationary period is set as six months for all the administrative staff. During the period of probation, the department head will evaluate the performance of the employee from time to time.

Notice Period during Probationary Period:



- AAU shall provide at least fourteen (14) days notice before the end of service during the probationary period.
- In case if an employee would like to leave, s/he shall provide not less than a month notice during the probationary period.
- If the foreign worker wishes to terminate the employment contract during the probationary period and leave the country, shall notify not less than fourteen (14) days.

5. Duration of contracts

The standard contract duration for administrative staff is two years, and it is renewable if both parties mutually agree. The duration of the contract may vary for different positions at the sole discretion of AAU.

6. Procedure for contract renewal

According to AAU's comprehensive evaluation process, the staff member is evaluated by the Department Head. The department head reviews the results of the previous yearly evaluation and take into account the effectiveness of the staff member during the course of performing his/her duties.

Based on the overall performance evaluation, AAU makes the decision whether or not to renew the staff member's contract.

7. Resignation and termination of an employment contract

7.1: Resignation:

Notice of resignation may vary according to the nature of position. Staff are requested to refer to their contracts before the submission of the resignation. The minimum notice period for standard contracts is one month. If a staff member fails to submit the required notice, procedures mentioned in the UAE's Labor Law No. (08) of 1980 will apply.

A resignation letter must be submitted to the relevant head of department. Once it is approved, it must be forwarded to the HR Unit for further processing.

7.2: Termination:

In case the contract is terminated by AAU, the concerned staff member will receive the notice as stipulated in the employment contract. AAU may waive the notice period and compensate the salary at its sole discretion. Termination can be due to any of the following reasons:

- ✓ Government directives;
- ✓ Workforce reduction;
- ✓ Restructuring;
- ✓ Failure to return from approved leave of absence;
- ✓ Release due to medical unfitness;
- ✓ Continued poor performance ;
- ✓ Gross misconduct.

In accordance with article 120 of UAE's Labor Law No. (08) of 1980, AAU may terminate the contract without prior notice and without severance pay in any of the following cases:

1. If the worker adopts a false identity or nationality or submits forged certificates or documents;
2. If the worker is engaged on probation and is dismissed during the probation or on its expiry;
3. If the worker makes a mistake resulting in substantial material loss for the employer, on condition that the latter notifies the Ministry of Labor of the incident within 48 hours of his/her becoming aware of its occurrence;
4. If the worker disobeys instructions respecting industrial safety or the safety of the workplace, on condition that such instructions are in writing and have been posted up at a conspicuous place and, in the case of an illiterate worker, that she/he has been acquainted with them orally;



5. If the worker does not perform his basic duties under the contract of employment and persists in violating them despite the fact that he/she has been the subject of a written investigation for this reason and that he/she has been warned that he will be dismissed if such behavior continues;
6. If the worker reveals any secret of the establishment in which he/she is employed;
7. If the worker is finally sentenced by a competent court for an offence involving honor, honesty or public morals;
8. If the worker is found in a state of drunkenness or under the influence of a drug during working hours;
9. If, while working, the worker assaults the employer, the responsible manager or any of his work mates;
10. If the worker is absent from his/her work without a valid reason for more than 20 non-consecutive days, or more than seven consecutive days, in any one year.

8. Employment/ Personnel Records

The HR Unit maintains a file for each staff member. Each file contains, but is not limited to, the following:

8.1: Personal Information:

This part contains the employee's C.V, personal photo, valid passport copy with residence visa for employee and dependents, valid UAE ID copies, contact details, health insurance records etc.

8.2: Qualifications:

In this section, true copies of all the verified academic credentials are placed in addition to copies of experience certificates, special achievement certificates, training certificates, etc.

8.3: Offer Letter and Contract:

This section provides information about the offer letter detailing the salary, valid MOHRE contract, date of commencement of work, and date of end of contract.

8.4: Leaves Information:

In this part of the file employee's leaves are recorded and categorized according to the type of leave; annual leaves, sick leaves and other leaves.

8.5: Other Documents:

In this part, all those documents issued by AAU for the staff and upon their request are documented.

8.6: Grievance and Discipline :

In this part, all those documents issued under grievance and discipline are recorded.

8.7: Performance Evaluation:

In this part, all those documents related to performance evaluation of staff are recorded.

Access to personal file

AAU Staff access to personal file is insured in order to review and/ or correct any erroneous information, to do so, staff is requested to visit HR Unit and request for file review.

9. Staff compensation and benefits

AAU adopts its own system of compensation and benefits which is mainly based on the employee's position, nature of job, and responsibilities. It also takes into consideration the qualification, experience, and any distinguished accomplishments the staff may have achieved.

The admin compensation & benefits consist of the following:

Monthly Salary:

The monthly salary is paid once a month for twelve months in the year. Salary is transferred to the bank account of the admin staff members before the end of every month, salary details are sent to the Wages Protection System of MOHRE where the salary of each employee is pre-registered.

Health Insurance Coverage:

Health Insurance for admin staff members, spouse, and three children (Residents of UAE and less than the age of 18 Years old) is provided by AAU.

Air Fare:

Admin staff members are entitled to receive a one-way ticket at the time of joining and leaving AAU. They are entitled to round-trip air ticket reimbursement during the annual vacation for every completed year as stipulated in the employment contract.



10. Promotion Policy

10.1 Overview

It is AAU's goal to ensure maximum opportunity for promotion of employees, consistent with the commitment to institutional needs and excellence, affirmative action, equal opportunity and applicable contractual agreements. It is the policy of AAU to enhance the upward mobility of staff members through promotion as well as complement the present practices at the university which allow for personnel development.

The policy is based on the recognition that in the course of meeting institutional objectives, the duties and functions of an employee may change in complexity and responsibility. Promotions, therefore, are based on status changes that involve increasing responsibility levels. The added benefits of promotion serve as an incentive for better work performance, enhance morale, and create a sense of individual achievement and recognition. While good past performance enhances the validity of the promotion, it should, by itself, neither be the primary nor the sole reason for recommending a candidate for promotion.

Managers seeking to promote staff members in their respective areas are reminded to pay particular attention to past annual performance evaluations. These documents indicate prior performance levels and accomplishments in the department illustrating, for example, how effectively the tasks assigned were completed.

10.2 Promotion Policy Statement

For the purpose of this policy statement, a promotion is defined as advancement to a different position which has increased responsibilities and adjustment to a higher salary level.

It is recognized that a promotion may occur through the following:

- **Reclassification of the existing position:**

A reclassification of the individual's existing position as a result of the individual performing duties at a higher degree of responsibility and complexity than the current classification calls for. This requires an audit of the position through the job evaluation process.

- **Filling of an existing higher level vacancy :**

This happens when an existing higher level vacancy is filled by a promotable individual at a lower classification.

Both processes must include a current job description and a new job description of the individual being promoted. Accordingly, it is within AAU policy to provide internal employment to qualified candidates through intradepartmental and interdepartmental promotion whenever possible. The criteria used when considering employees' qualifications for promotion must be fair and unbiased, and all university employment policy requirements must be fully met and documented. Employees are to be considered for promotion regardless of age, sex, race, color, national origin or physical impairment.

10.3 Eligibility

All AAU employees who have successfully completed three years specified by conditions of employment or contract are eligible to be considered for promotion if available. They are encouraged to review all job vacancies circulated to each department and posted on the AAU's website on a regular basis.

Supervisors should also be aware that promotable candidates need only satisfy the qualifications as specified in the job description and not the qualities, skills or knowledge of the candidate.

10.4 Implementation

Supervisors should encourage all support staff members within their areas of responsibility in the pursuit of career advancement and should ensure that all qualified internal applicants, are duly considered for vacancies in their unit before recruiting outside candidates.

For the implementation of the promotion policy, the following criteria must be met:

- The positions are in the same department, and one position genuinely prepares the employee for the next. This allows for upward movement within the same or related family of job groups where skills are easily transferable.
- The employee has already demonstrated the ability to perform the higher job.
- The employee has met any special requirements such as a course or a skill.
- The department must be able to demonstrate a satisfactory past record of the employee.
- The employee has no warning in his file for the past 3 years.
- The unique and specialized requirements (including but not limited to qualifications, experience, personal attributes, professional skills) of the open position justify promotion.



10.5 Procedures for promotion

• Responsibilities of Appropriate Dean, Department Head or Manager

A completed Promotion Application Form (available at HR Unit) is signed by the Dean, Department Head or Manager and submitted to the HR Manager. The “current status” of the candidate and the recommended “new status” should be stipulated. Accompanying the Promotion Application Form should be the following documents:

- ✓ A memorandum justifying the reasons for the recommendation. If the promotion exists either through the filling of a vacancy or through a reclassification, all relevant data chronicling the person’s most recent evaluation(s) and the criteria being evaluated should be included. Also included should be a statement of functional and organizational changes within the department impacting the position; other data such as, but not limited to, include: proof of added qualification; completion of job related service training courses which enhance current job knowledge and skills.
- ✓ A current job description of the candidate.
- ✓ A copy of the vacant position or a statement outlining the new duties and responsibilities to be evaluated.

• Responsibilities of the HR Manager

The HR Manager shall review all aspects of the promotion with respect to payroll, salary, benefits, grade change, title change, effective start date and the organizational structure affected by these movements. Upon completion of this review, the HR Manager forwards all materials to the Senior Management. Upon completion of analysis, the Senior Management will approve or decline the promotion request.

• Effective Date of Promotion

A promotion becomes effective from the date of approval from the Senior Management.

11. AAU general policies

AAU has developed general policies to establish the principles of ethical and disciplinary conduct by which employees conduct business on behalf of the AAU. It also provides the basic guidelines for general behavioral standards for the employees in order to create a healthy work environment.

11.1: Code of Conduct:

- Employees must fulfill the job responsibilities assigned to them faithfully and accurately, and dedicate the working hours to carry out job responsibilities and all instructions and orders of superiors. Moreover, they must undertake to preserve the moral and financial interests and means of the AAU against any material or moral loss or damage and undertake to avoid any violation or breach of laws, regulations, and instructions enforced in the AAU.
- The employee's benefits mentioned in the contract are subject to the AAU policies and the AAU has the right to change, modify or cancel these benefits as the policy changes.
- Due to the nature of their work with the university, employees will come across information, data, procedures, methodology, systems, accounts, profits and losses of the AAU, related to conducting business transactions, strategies, students, and clients; therefore, during their employment and two years after resignation or termination or end of services, employees cannot practice any competitive transactions inside the UAE.
- AAU prohibits any form of disclosure or dissemination of confidential information obtained by the employees during their work at AAU. Employees shall treat as confidential any information or records, regardless of their format, conveyed to them on the basis of confidential information.
- Employees are responsible for proper handling of and care for tools, equipment, vehicles etc provided by the AAU, and they must not use the AAU Assets for private purpose without authorization.
- In case of resignation and/or termination of services, employees shall deliver all the university clientele lists and files, and all plans, statistics, documents, and belongings including, but not limited to, keys, books, materials, software, and credit cards in their possession that are directly related to the AAU, the students, and other concerned parties. They shall not have the right to keep any hard or soft copies in connection with the above mentioned issues.
- During the term of employment or at any time subsequent to its termination, employees shall refrain from inducing, soliciting, or aiding any of AAU's employees, consultants or other persons having a contractual relationship with

the University to leave such employment, cease advising or counseling, or terminate any other contractual relationship with the University.

- Employees should maintain the highest standards of honesty, integrity, impartiality and conduct to avoid situations that could create or lead to a conflict of interest. AAU expects its employees to avoid any personal activities and financial interests which may conflict with their commitment in effectively performing their jobs. Any conflict of interest arising during the employment period has to be communicated to the relevant authorities.
- There are Reserved Areas of Business that include matters affecting the appointment, promotion and personal affairs of individual members of staff of the University and matters affecting the admission of individual students, their academic assessment and the consequences thereof, or personal affairs or circumstances. Subject to the above, AAU may decide in any case of doubt whether a matter is a reserved area of business or not and such a decision shall be final.
- Employees should accept the obligation to exercise critical self-discipline and must not create any kind of relationship with students of same/opposite sex. They must avoid any kind of exploitation, harassment or discriminatory treatment towards students. Evidence of any such incident will lead to serious repercussions.
- Employees must not receive any kind of gifts/personal benefits from the students/parents or persons associated with a student/parent inside or outside the university. If received so in an unavoidable situation, it is mandatory to inform the management. Any action contrary to the above mentioned will lead to serious disciplinary actions including termination of contract.
- Employees must not exploit their position to intervene with academic affairs of any kind including, but not limited to, grades, registration, marks, privileges etc. Any kind of connection between administrative staff and academic staff regarding academic affairs is prohibited.
- To work for another employer, whoever it may be, during the service with AAU constitutes a gross misconduct.
- Employees must not disclose any information related to their salary and benefits inside/outside AAU.
- Staff Members must refrain from any acts or practices that violate legislation, moral and ethical conduct, and the traditions and customs of the United Arab Emirates. They must also refrain from engaging/abusing the political opinions/activities or religious beliefs of others, whether in or out of the workplace. (by any means, in person or digitally)

11.2: Misconduct:

Misconduct involves a contravention of above mentioned obligations. Serious misconduct involves serious and/or repeated contravention of the above obligations. Misconduct may lead to reprimand and warning. Serious misconduct, if established, will usually lead to dismissal.

11.3: AAU No Smoking Policy

AAU is committed to providing a smoke-free environment to protect the health and comfort of members of the university community from the adverse effects of tobacco smoke. This policy shall be implemented by the following rules and regulations, which may be changed from time to time.

Rules and Regulations

- There shall be no smoking of tobacco products within any building or facility owned or operated by the University.
- Smoking is permitted in the outdoor areas of the university premises.
- While all other buildings and facilities on University property are smoke-free, it should be particularly noted, there shall be no smoking in:
 - ✓ conference rooms, classrooms, laboratories or lecture halls;
 - ✓ auditoriums;
 - ✓ offices;
 - ✓ libraries and bookstores;
 - ✓ cafeterias and food and beverage service areas;
 - ✓ storage or warehouse areas, and anywhere that hazardous substances are found;
 - ✓ corridors, lobbies, entries or stairways;
 - ✓ sports or recreational areas.

11.4: Dress Code

Dress code for male staff is set to be formal wear, female staff must wear professional attire which is not revealing.

11.5: Consultancy, Volunteering, Outside Employment (any form)

Staff members at AAU are expected to dedicate their time and effort to their assigned professional job related activities. AAU fosters the principles of community service and cooperation with professional and scholarly organizations. Nevertheless, that engaging in consulting activities which are not in conflict with AAU's interest is not prohibited, a staff member who wishes to perform any form of outside work (training, consultation, supervision in whole or in part of a research, project, or any other form of work etc.), whether paid or unpaid, must obtain a written approval from the AAU President based on an official letter from the relevant authority prior to initiating that work or activity.



12. Performance Evaluation

12.1 Overview:

AAU always encourages the employees and facilitates their growth and satisfaction within the AAU. For this purpose, the formal “Performance Evaluation System” provides the basis for decisions regarding confirmation, promotion and annual appraisal of AAU staff strictly on merit. The objective of this policy is to specify the central functions and procedures of AAU’s Performance Management System’s framework. This policy covers all permanent full time administrative staff members.

12.2 Policy:

- The AAU performance management system focuses at encouraging a performance driven work environment that can ultimately urge good performers to improve further and help to manage underperformances through proper monitoring and guidance. It also aims at providing a fair review of the employee’s performance during the year as an essential part of employee development.
- All the managers are required to set goals for their departments/units; these departmental goals must be aligned with the AAU’s Mission and Vision. Additionally, managers should discuss their departmental objectives/performance with the senior management on appropriate basis and submit the status reports. The evidence on such activities will be used as a major tool to measure the performance of the managers.
- In light of the department/unit goals, managers are required to set the objectives of the employees. These objectives must be defined and handed over to the employees by the beginning of the year (by using the Performance Evaluation form available at the HR Unit). In case of new recruitment, objectives must be defined and discussed during the first three months of hiring.
- Employees are required to be familiar with the goals of AAU as well as those of their department/unit. It will help the employees to demonstrate better understanding for individual objectives and to participate in the performance discussions.

12.3 Process of performance review

The performance review will take place as follows:

- **Employee’s Confirmation:**

All new employees will be appraised one month prior to the completion of

probation (Probation period will be of six months). In case of satisfactory performance, their services will be confirmed, and a Confirmation Letter will be issued by the Human Resources Unit. In case of unsatisfactory performance, services may be terminated.

- **Annual Performance Review:**

This will be conducted once a year. AAU may set a specific period for annual performance review.

- **Contract Renewal:**

Performance review must take place at least three months prior to the employee's contract renewal.

The performance management system is comprised of three basic activities: setting objectives and conveying them to the employees at the beginning of the year, monitoring the performance during the year, and reviewing the performance and objective achievement at the end of the year.

Aside from the above mentioned formal activities, employees and managers are encouraged to frequently conduct less formal meetings in order to discuss progress or any hindrances in objective achievement.

Performance review meetings must be based on the principle of two-way communication. The employee is encouraged to discuss issues related to the job and performance, career plans, etc. Managers are encouraged to provide constructive feedback on the employee's strengths and areas for improvement.

Managers are required to maintain proper record of the individual performance in case it is important to attach it to the performance review form as evidence.

The HR Unit will be responsible for supporting Performance Management activity through providing guidance to managers and employees. The HR Unit is also responsible for performance improvement needs including training and corrective actions.

AAU may use different tools to support the performance management system; these may vary between employee categories and various departments.



13. Performance improvement policy

It is the policy of AAU to provide counseling support and development to employees whose performance is below average or unsatisfactory in order to assist them to meet the job requirements and to prevent the need for disciplinary action or termination.

AAU is keen on providing each employee with the direction, development and counseling necessary to assure a productive and rewarding career. If the employee's performance is substandard (i.e. below established expectations) on a sustained basis, additional counseling and direction may be rendered.

13.1 Definition of unsatisfactory performance:

Performance may be unsatisfactory in a number of areas; these include, but are not limited to:

- Performance (quality or quantity) does not meet the requirements of the job.
- Work is consistently off schedule.
- The employee does not meet generally accepted standards of employment (e.g. excessive or sustained absenteeism or tardiness).
- Inability to maintain satisfactory working relationships with others.

Employees whose performance appears to be unsatisfactory, on a sustained basis, in any of the above categories, should be provided the following phases of counseling:

Phase – 1

At the first sign of unsatisfactory performance, the Department Head/Manager should:

- ✓ Meet with the employee for a formal discussion of performance.
- ✓ Clarify expectations, which are not being met.
- ✓ Discuss specific performance problems.
- ✓ List specific expectations for improvement.
- ✓ Provide the employee with a dated written summary of the discussion, including a statement describing the performance problems and a list of specific expectations for improvement.
- ✓ Closely monitor the employee's performance for a period of at least one month following the discussion.

Phase – 2

If improvement has occurred, the manager should provide feedback to the employee on the improved work performance.

If improvement has not taken place:

- ✓ The employee should be placed on a formal performance improvement plan for a specified duration (typically three months or more). The Human Resources Unit should be informed of the plan.
- ✓ The supervisor should again specify improvements which must be made during this time frame and suggest development actions to assist the employee in making the improvement required.
- ✓ The supervisor should specify future disciplinary action to be taken if improvement is not made during the improvement plan period.
- ✓ The supervisor should monitor performance closely during the improvement plan period. It is also critical that the managers provide frequent guidance and counseling to assist the employee in making the desired improvements.
- ✓ At the end of the improvement plan period, the supervisor should formally review performance with the employee.

If performance has improved, the employee should be taken off the formal improvement plan and reminded that improved performance is now expected to continue. If performance has not improved or it regresses at a later date, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. Documentation of unsatisfactory performance will remain in the employee's personal folder for three years. At the end of three years, the documentation should be destroyed if the employee's performance has been fully satisfactory during the interim period. The major objective of this policy is to improve marginal or unsatisfactory employee performance and to prevent further deterioration of the employee's work performance. A second important objective is to make certain that when an employee's continued employment is under question, the employee will be provided support, assistance and guidance from the management - before disciplinary action becomes necessary.

13.2 Exceptions:

It is recognized that there may be occasions where it is not in the best interest of either the employee or the university to continue an employment relationship. In such situations, the use of a formal performance improvement plan may be waived, with the concurrence of the department head/manager and the Human Resources Unit. Such exceptions should be rare, and waiver of the performance improvement plan should be considered only in situations where, after careful thought, it is concluded that a period of formal performance counseling will most likely not bring about the changes in performance or work relationships that are necessary. The senior management's approval to such an exception would be a mandatory requirement.



14. Professional development

At AAU, opportunities for career development and training are open to all employees. All employees will be provided with every opportunity to acquire the range of training, Skills and experience necessary for their job and career development.

Opportunities for training will be based on the requirements of the job, and career development will be based on people's abilities and merit. AAU is committed to a relevant training and career development policy for all staff irrespective of background. Announcements of training programs are mailed to staff members or invitations are extended through department heads. Employees who wish to enroll in training courses must have prior approval from their Managers.

Further, the University encourages the participation of employees in programs offered or sponsored by the Human Resources Unit. Supervisors may allow paid release time to attend such programs provided that the seminar, workshop, or course is reasonably related to an employee's existing job or a future position to which the employee may reasonably aspire.

Promotions and interdepartmental transfers are also encouraged for staff members' professional development.

15. Staff participation in committees

Committees serve many purposes, e.g. gathering staff skills and resources; distribution of work; sharing of information, ideas and expertise; and opportunities for involvement and professional growth. The University acknowledges the importance of staff participation in the committees and feedback from the professional staff is considered of utmost importance in order to take any decision related to AAU and its stakeholder's interest. Committee members (drawn from all levels of staff) are selected and appointed by Management based on expertise and/or position. Most importantly, individuals are selected based on the contributions they can make to the particular work of the committee. Staff members actively participate in the different committees such as:

- The Student Disciplinary Committee
- The Student Grievance Committee
- The Grants and Financial Aid Committee
- The Budget Committee
- The Library Committee

16. Grievance management policy

This section outlines the procedures by which the staff may raise any concerns related to the work. These concerns can be any of the following in nature:

- Concerns related to individual work relationship in the university.
- Concerns related to working conditions/situations.
- Concerns related to employment terms and conditions.

The employee should first work informally with the administrators (immediate supervisor, Manager, Dean and HR Manager) to resolve the matter. Experience indicates that almost all the cases can be resolved informally. The process should reflect mutual trust, respect and cooperation.

In case the matter is not resolved informally, the employee can use the formal proceedings as mentioned below:

- The employee shall report the matter in writing to the immediate supervisor.
- Where the issue is not resolved through the immediate supervisor, the grievance should be reported to the Department/unit head.
- The Department/Unit head shall meet with the relevant parties, review the matter, and arrive at a decision within five working days after the meeting is held. The decision should be communicated to the employee in writing.
- In case the employee is not happy with the decision, further appeal can be made to the HR Manager. The decision of the HR Manager is considered final.

17. Discipline

An employee who is deemed to be in breach of any of the AAU standards of performance and conduct shall be subject to disciplinary measures. These disciplinary measures may include any of the following:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- A fine
- Disciplinary investigation
- Loss of due increment
- Loss of due promotion
- Dismissal



In the case of verbal warning, the employee's immediate supervisor shall discuss with the employee the problems giving rise to disciplinary measures and give him / her, an opportunity to solve the problem.

A written warning may be imposed on the employee after reviewing the circumstances, hearing the employee's defense and consulting with the HR Manager. A record of a written warning shall be given to the employee and a copy shall be placed in the employee's file.

In case of a matter/issue that requires an investigation, a written case including a set of all the relevant documents must be forwarded to the investigation committee.

- The committee is to record all the findings and the conclusion in a report that must be signed by all members of the committee on each page.
- The report should be submitted to the HR Manager who, in turn, takes a swift correction action based on the recommendation of the Investigation committee.
- Based on the findings, a letter is prepared by the HR Unit mentioning the type of the penalty imposed on the employee. This letter must be signed by the employee upon receiving it.
- If the employee refused to receive a warning or a penalty letter, it must be sent to his/her official mail address and/or two people must testify to the refusal of receipt of the letter by employee.

During the investigation, the employee may be suspended with or without pay. The period of suspension shall be considered from the date the incident is reported until a decision is rendered on the matter.

The results of a disciplinary investigation may include any of the above mentioned measures including termination of employment.

All disciplinary decisions other than a verbal notice or warning shall be communicated in writing to the employee and a record shall be placed in the employee file.

In the event executive employees are subject to disciplinary investigation, the matter will be handled through the President's or Chancellor's Office.

18. Appeals

The employee may appeal the disciplinary decision by presenting his / her appeal in writing to the University President within two weeks of the date on which the disciplinary decision is communicated to him/her in writing. Upon receiving the appeal, the administrator shall review the matter. The decision on the appeal shall be issued within two weeks and will be considered final.

19. Benefits and restitution for deceased staff members

19.1 Restitution

The family who survives a deceased staff member is entitled to the following:

- The salary for the whole month during which death occurred.
- The staff member's heirs are entitled to a maximum restitution of three gross monthly salaries.
- Should a staff member be physically incapacitated and consequently his/her contract is terminated, the staff member's heirs are entitled to a restitution of three gross monthly salaries in addition to any other benefits stated in the employment contract.

19.2 Transportation of the deceased's remains

The university shall pay the expenses of transferring the remains of a deceased staff member to the staff member's country of origin in addition to travel expenses of one person to accompany the remains. The university shall honor all the deceased faculty member's rights stated in the contract including the end of service benefits.



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