Faculty Outlook on the Move to a New University Campus

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Comprehensive Analysis of Move Pre/Post University Shift (CAMPUS) Research Project

- CAMPUS represents an interdisciplinary collaboration from a social science perspective.

- The research explores shifts in student, faculty and staff experiences related to social, emotional, and practical connections to the university and greater Cairo.
Faculty Outlook on the Move to a New University Campus

How do faculty members feel about the move from the Down Town Campus to the New Cairo Campus?

- Before the move to the New Campus a survey was made available online.

Demographics

- 58.9% have a Doctorate, 40% a Master’s degree and 1.1% a Bachelor’s degree.

- The different nationalities participating in the study were: 42.7% Egyptians, 34.8% Americans, 9% having a dual Egyptian/American nationality and 13.5% having other nationalities.
Demographics

- Departments Most Represented:
  - English Language Institute (14.8%), Rhetoric and Composition (13.6%), Arabic Language Institute (12.5%), SAPE/Gender and Women/Forced Migration and Refugee Studies (12.5%).

- Faculty that participated have been apart of the AUC community:
  - For less than 5 years (30%)
  - Between 5-10 years (20%)
  - Between 10-20 years (22.2%)
  - More than 20 years (32.2%)

How much do you want AUC to move to the new campus? (on a scale from 1-10)

- There were 71 (out of 90) participants that responded to this question.
- Results showed mixed feelings.
- 16.9% of faculty gave a score of 1, 18.3% gave a score of 10, and 14% gave a score of 5.
When you think about AUC’s move to the new campus, what three words best describe your feelings?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Excited</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Worried</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tired</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hopeful, Frustrated</td>
<td>3.3% (each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Curious, Concerned</td>
<td>2.8% (each)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table-1: Top 5 commonly used words.
Other Common Themes:

- Being hesitant/unsure (16.4%)
- Annoyance and frustration (10.9%)
- Hopeful/anticipating (10.9%)
- Indifferent (8.7%)
- “Isolation” (7.6%)

- Empowerment and inspiration, burdensome, expressing interest.

Positive Comments

“Smart classrooms, more up to date equipments.”

“Better resources; the ability of AUC to belong to higher world rank of universities due to facilities that would enhance teaching & learning; more sports facilities..”
“More space, inside and outside campus.”

Positive Comments

“Office space for conferencing with students.”

“Less pollution.”

Positive Comments

“The vision of a beautiful place in the desert, instead of a crowded dirty place in the midst of chaos in the center of the city.”
“..making history.”

Positive Comments

“Be among the world's leading university campuses and pioneer in the region.”

Negative Comments

“..all the lorries on the highway.”

“commuting daily from across the capital!”
“students will live in an oasis totally detached from their community.”

“feeling somewhat disconnected from Cairo, especially since we are moving to an area in which it will be easy for the students to ignore poverty and other social problems.”

“An international University should not be isolated from the beating centres of culture, politics etc for students, particularly foreigners, to appreciate it and better understand the place they selected to come to.”
"Reflects unartistic, unclutured, unauthentic, unacademic, undemocratic, unloyal, unobjective attitude of decision makers.”

“The new campus isn't ready. It will take at least a year to move in, it will take two more years to settle in, and then it will take a decade to fix everything that they did wrong the first time."

Negative Comments

Corporatization Theme

“.. I am worried about the corporatization of AUC. Food service has been contracted out, donors get to name buildings, departments and gates.. I am worried that the upper level administration only cares about providing a flashy new campus without providing the support needed to provide a quality education to students.”

“It seems that AUC is intent on becoming a McUniversity, which is a pity.”
Impact of the move on commitment to teaching at AUC

Examples of Common Themes:

“No impact. Same commitment.”

“It did not change my commitment to perform my work and to excel in teaching my students at AUC.”

“.my commitment is somewhat tenuous as it is. AUC is on probation, as far as my contract goes, and I'm keeping an open mind with the new campus.”

Examples of Common Themes:

“Will retire sooner than expected.”

“I am less committed to AUC than I would be if we were staying downtown.”

“It has strengthened my interest in teaching at AUC.”
Examples of Common Themes:

“Yes I am willing to commit to AUC but what if AUC suddenly does not commit to me? What if my contract is not renewed.”

“The move to the new campus makes me less committed to teaching at AUC due to the long commute involved.”

For more information:

If you have any questions about the CAMPUS Research Project please visit our website at:

http://www.aucegypt.edu/academics/dept/sape/Pages/Campus.aspx

Or email Dr. Mona Amer (monaamer@aucegypt.edu), Nadia Haddara (nadiahaddara@aucegypt.edu).
Acknowledgments

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