

Al-Quds University/Brandeis University Partnership Report to the Ford Foundation

August 2006

The Al-Quds University/Brandeis University partnership was designed to achieve three goals:

- Improving the administrative capacity of Al-Quds University
- Creating and disseminating new knowledge
- Educating our communities

The partnership has made significant progress towards achieving each of these goals. We have done extensive work on the “administration and finance” special project, including developing a strategic plan for change at Al-Quds University. We completed the American Studies exchange during this year, and additional activities are in the works for 2006-07. The partnership received press coverage locally and internationally, and we have assembled considerable archival material for future dissemination.

The partnership was built around three “special projects,” five “exchanges,” and a documentation effort. Details on progress to date on these partnership elements follow below and in the attachments.

Special Projects

Administration/Finance

We have made significant progress on the administration/finance special project in 2005-06. Imad Abu Kishek, vice president for administrative and financial affairs at Al-Quds University, has produced a strategic plan for reform of Al-Quds administrative systems in his purview. This was accomplished during a year-long residency at Brandeis, highlighted by visits from seven of his top deputies in May 2006. Reports on Mr. Abu Kishek’s year at Brandeis and the visits of his deputies are attached, as is an outline version of his strategic plan.

Effective Teaching

Detailed discussions regarding the “effective teaching” project began in May 2006, with a visit to Al-Quds University by one Brandeis faculty member and one senior administrator: Professor Susan Lanser (English and Women’s Studies) and Associate Dean Elaine Wong. Their conversations with Dr. Said Zeedani, assistant to the president for academic affairs, resulted in a plan for pairing faculty members from the two institutions to work on issues of curriculum development, pedagogy, and evaluation. The plan calls for Al-Quds University faculty to visit Brandeis in fall 2006, with a return visit planned for 2007. A report on Professor Lanser’s and Dean Wong’s visit to Al-Quds University is attached.

Communications

Two Brandeis staff members, Lorna Miles and Mike Lovett, made a preliminary visit to Al-Quds University in December 2006, consulting with communications staff at Al-Quds and assembling an extensive archive of photographs. In May 2006, Rola Alafandi and Daniel DeWolff of the Al-Quds communications department spent two weeks at Brandeis, and developed a communications plan, as well as identity and branding materials for Al-Quds University, while working closely with Brandeis communications staff. Print and web materials based on this work will be forthcoming in 2006-07.

Academic Exchanges

American Studies

The American Studies exchange was completed in March 2006, under the leadership of Professor Mohammed Dajani (Al-Quds) and Dr. Daniel Terris (Brandeis). Professor Dajani and four American Studies graduate students visited Brandeis, where they met with students, consulted with faculty members, and made extensive use of the Brandeis libraries to work on their M.A. projects. A report on the American Studies exchange is attached.

Women's Studies

An initial plan for an exchange focused on the political participation of women in municipal elections in Palestine and the United States was developed early in 2005-06. Activities are now in the planning stages for 2006-07.

Public Health/Public Policy

A draft plan for the public health/public policy exchange, under the leadership of Dr. Khuloud Dajani (Al-Quds) and Professor A.K. Nandakumar (Brandeis) has been completed. Dr. Dajani will spend several weeks at Brandeis in winter/spring 2007 to work on curriculum development, the development of a new program in International Health Policy and Management, and capacity-building for faculty and students. She will identify areas of joint research, and explore the possibility of joint training courses offered by Al-Quds and Brandeis.

Science Education

Progress on the science education exchange was slowed by an illness in the family of the Brandeis project leader. We are currently exploring options for the implementation of this exchange during 2006-07.

Undergraduate exchange

Plans for an undergraduate exchange between Al-Quds and Brandeis students are in the works for 2006-07.

Documentation

Two Rams Productions has filmed significant portions of the visits of Al-Quds personnel to Brandeis, and Al-Quds Educational Television has done some limited work when Brandeis personnel have visited Al-Quds. Existing footage will be edited into a short video highlighting the partnership during 2006-07.

The project launched a website (www.brandeis.edu/aqu), and Brandeis University photographer Mike Lovett created an archive of thousands of digital photographs of the project, taken on both campuses.

The partnership has also received press coverage in the *New York Times*, as well as local publications on each campus. Al-Quds University was also featured prominently in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* this year. Sample articles are attached.

In addition, the project steering committee exchanged views by email and met by conference call during 2005-06. Project leaders Khuloud Dajani and Daniel Terris maintained regular communications. The committee's work in 2006-07 will focus on next stages of the partnership beyond June 2007.

A financial report has been sent to the Ford Foundation under separate cover.