

**Al-Quds University/Brandeis University Partnership
Grant #1030-0957-1
Report to the Ford Foundation
August 2007**

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

As of August 2007, we are approaching the end of the grant period for the first significant implementation phase of the partnership. The original grant period was July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2007. We were granted a no-cost extension of the grant period through December 31, 2007, in order to complete several important projects that are in process.

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

Special projects

Administration/Finance

Imad Abu Kishek, assistant to the president for administration and finance at Al-Quds University, extended his stay at Brandeis University through June 2007. During this time, Mr. Abu Kishek continued to work on the refinement of the strategic plan for reforms of the administrative systems at Al-Quds, while in conversation with his colleagues at the university. He continued to work closely with Brandeis University administrators on his ideas, while at the same time strengthening his skills through additional course work at the Heller School at Brandeis and at Northeastern University.

Effective Teaching

The effective teaching project began to take center stage in the partnership during 2006-07. Following the visit by Professor Susan Lanser (English and Women’s Studies) and Associate Dean Elaine Wong to Al-Quds in May 2006, a delegation of faculty members and academic administrators visited Brandeis in October 2006. This fruitful visit developed relationships between individual faculty members at the universities, and gave rise to a plan to concentrate on the development of a committee for teaching and learning to strengthen pedagogy and the training of new and younger faculty members at Al-Quds. In addition, Dr. Said Zeedani, assistant to the president for academic affairs at Al-Quds University, visited Brandeis in April 2007, where he gave talks, met with faculty members and administrators, and consulted with the Brandeis team on plans for development of appropriate structures at Al-Quds. Four Brandeis faculty members and administrators will complete this part of the project in a visit to Al-Quds in October 2007, at which time they will lead a workshop for new faculty members and work with Al-

Quds personnel to formalize a training and committee structure that will strengthen teaching at the Palestinian university. Reports on the visits by Al-Quds faculty to Brandeis, a list of partnership ideas generated under the “Effective Teaching” rubric, and an initial plan for the October 2007 workshop and visit, are appended as attachments 1-5.

Communications

Brandeis and Al-Quds staff members have continued to work on English-language print and web materials for Al-Quds University that will be important resources for public relations and fundraising. Completion of these materials is scheduled for fall 2007.

Academic Exchanges

American Studies

The American Studies exchange was completed in March 2006, as described in the August 2006 report. The faculty and students have maintained informal contact during 2006-2007. A number of the students’ master’s projects, making use of research completed while at Brandeis University, have been completed.

Women’s Studies

Dr. Najah Manasra of the Insan Center for Gender Studies at Al-Quds University visited Brandeis in October 2006, where she participated in a conference called “Beyond Slavery,” spoke to classes and groups at Brandeis, and consulted with Brandeis faculty on joint research and education projects. Her report on her visit is appended as attachment 6.

Public Health/Public Policy

A draft plan for the public health/public policy exchange, under the leadership of Dr. Khuloud Khayyat Dajani (Al-Quds) and Professor A.K. Nandakumar (Brandeis) was completed in 2006. Dr. Dajani will spend several weeks at Brandeis during 2007-08 to work on curriculum development, the development of a new program in International Health Policy and Management, capacity-building for faculty and students, identifying areas of joint research, and exploring the possibility of joint training courses offered by Al-Quds and Brandeis.

Science Education

Dr. Robert Lange of Brandeis University will be visiting Al-Quds University as part of the “Effective Teaching” exchange in October 2007. During this visit, he will work with Dr. Hassan Dweik and other Al-Quds University colleagues on projects of mutual interest in the field of science education.

Undergraduate exchange

Intensive planning an undergraduate workshop involving eight students from Al-Quds University and eight students from Brandeis University took place during 2006-07. The workshop took place August 13-23, 2007, in Istanbul, Turkey. Its goals were to engage students from both universities in a joint intellectual activity, while also giving

them an opportunity to get to know one another in the context of the historic city of Istanbul. The students' seminar, led by Dr. Said Zeedani of Al-Quds University and Dr. Michael Whelan of Brandeis University, focused on the question, "What is a Good Society?" The workshop took place too late for a full accounting to be included in this report. However, information on the exchange, including the application, program design, and syllabus, are appended as attachments 7-9.

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. The final version of a short video highlighting the partnership will be available in fall 2007.

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

In addition, the project steering committee exchanged views by email during 2006-07. Project leaders Dr. Khuloud Khayyat Dajani and Dr. Daniel Terris maintained regular communications. The committee's work in 2006-07 focused on next stages of the partnership beyond June 2007. A detailed plan for continued activities was developed, with a special focus on effective teaching, intellectual exchanges, longer-term residencies, and the continuation of the undergraduate component of the project.

A financial report is being sent to the Ford Foundation under separate cover.

Attachments:

- 1) Report on the November 2006 "Effective Teaching" visit to Brandeis by Dr. Omar Dhaher
- 2) Report on the November 2006 "Effective Teaching" visit to Brandeis by Dr. Musa Abu Teir
- 3) Document describing ideas for the partnership under the rubric of "Effective Teaching" created at the end of the November 2006 "Effective Teaching" visit to Brandeis
- 4) Schedule for the April/May "Effective Teaching" visit to Brandeis by Dr. Said Zeedani
- 5) Plan for the scheduled October 2007 "Effective Teaching" workshop at Al-Quds University
- 6) Report by Dr. Najah Manasra of the Insan Center for Gender Studies regarding her October 2006 visit to Brandeis
- 7) Brandeis University application for undergraduate exchange program
- 8) Biographies of Brandeis University and Al-Quds University participants in the undergraduate exchange program
- 9) Syllabus for the undergraduate workshop