

## Future Focus: AI in Higher Education University Leadership Steering Committee

Online meeting

13.00 - 14.00, 29th September 2025

### Attendees:

First name	Last name	Title	University name
Adam	Fenech	Provost	Canadian University Dubai
Ashraf	Mahate	Academic Advisory Board	Studiosity
Asma	Salman	Vice President, Research	American University in the Emirates
Chris	Fitzpatrick	General Manager	Studiosity
Ghassan	Aouad	Chancellor	Abu Dhabi University
Hassan	Selim	Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs	University of Kalba
Imad	Hoballah	Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Relations, and Professor of Business Development	American University of Ras Al Khaimah
James	Griffin	Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs and Instruction	American University of Sharjah
Mahinour	Amin	Director of Teaching and Learning Centre	Ajman University
Marc	Poulin	Acting President	ADSM
Mohamed	Salem	President	University of Wollongong in Dubai
Narimane	Hadj-Hamou	CEO	CLICKS
Obaya	Ahmed	Student	Ajman University
Rafid	Al Khaddar	Pro Vice Chancellor	Amity University Dubai
Udaya	Chandrika	Office Manager	CLICKS

### Agenda:

- Welcome
- AI in Teaching and Learning Adoption Framework: Summary of pilot findings.
- Events calendar update
- Review of the proposed AI in Higher Education streams
- Expansion of collaboration to include institutions from the wider Arab world

- Theme for next Roundtable

### **Welcome**

- Chris Fitzpatrick welcomed everyone and particularly welcomed and noted the new Steering Committee members, Dr Adam Fenech, from Canadian University Dubai, and Dr Assaad Farah from American University in Dubai.
- Chris Fitzpatrick provided an overview of the meeting agenda.
- Chris Fitzpatrick paid tribute to our late colleague, Ms Katya Burfitt, who sadly passed since the last meeting. Katya's initiative in working with Dr Narimane to establish this forum for collaboration was acknowledged, as was the very kind support of all the Steering Committee members.

### **Summary of pilot findings**

- Dr Narimane provided a summary of the pilot process, timing and objectives.
- Dr Narimane summarised the experience of Dubai Medical University in its application of the Framework:
  - The process helped to identify areas of strength that can be used as a model across the University.
  - The Framework was effective in identifying areas for attention.
  - Recommendations for action were generated.
  - The Framework itself was a useful tool for guiding the review process, and no major areas for change were identified.
- Dr Narimane summarised the feedback from Ajman University:
  - Ease of Use: The framework was clear and straightforward to navigate.
  - Value for Analysis: It helped institutions identify strengths and gaps effectively.
  - Collaborative Inputs Needed: Applying the framework required contributions from multiple stakeholders
- Dr Narimane noted the areas for review included:
  - Add measurability cues (e.g. % courses, # tools per discipline)
  - Use impact indicators (e.g. uptake rates, usage outcomes)
  - Include evidence exemplars for each criterion
  - Streamline Criteria: merge overlapping items (e.g. assessment integrity) / reallocate criteria to avoid redundancy (e.g. ethical use under its own theme) / consolidate repeated policy statements.
  - Enhance Progression: add progression or maturity cues (e.g. approved pilots, grants, scaling indicators) / disaggregate evidence to show equity and inclusion impacts.
- Dr Mahinour summarised Ajman University's feedback, emphasising the importance of measurement reference points and the overlapping criteria that might be consolidated.
- Dr Narimane noted that the process now would be to review the Framework in light of the

feedback received and proposed updates to this group for endorsement. This would include a rationale where feedback has not resulted in a change to the Framework.

- Dr Adam volunteered to pilot the Framework at CUC, as did Prof Hassan at University of Kalba. Chris Fitzpatrick will liaise with them about how to proceed.

### **Events calendar update**

- Chris Fitzpatrick presented the proposed calendar of webinar events, which aim to enable lead universities to showcase examples of how AI has been incorporated into their institutions.
- Some of the previously discussed topics have been merged into a single webinar.
- Studiosity and CLICKS will liaise with the lead universities to confirm topics, format, speakers and dates, and will assist in the logistics for each event.
- Dr Narimane added that it is intended that the lead universities determine the topics and format, and that they are welcome to involve other institutions that have something to say on the topic. The format is for the lead university to decide, for example, it could be to present a short case study, have a panel discussion, or a keynote and a panel. Some guidelines and some templates have been developed to support the institutions involved.
- Chris Fitzpatrick noted that Studiosity and CLICKS will facilitate these events by hosting them, inviting the wider higher education community, and posting recordings to the website so that a collection of helpful resources is built over time.
- Prof Ghassan commented that collaboration between universities has been limited to date, and these sorts of collaborative events are an opportunity to engage more with each other, to create a culture of collaboration.
- Dr Asma (AUE) and Dr Imad (AURAK) volunteered to lead an event.

### **Review of the proposed AI in Higher Education streams**

- Chris Fitzpatrick outlined a proposal that the primary focus of the AI in Higher Education initiative is to be the application of AI in teaching and learning, with other streams (such as governance, operations, research, etc) to be led independently by volunteering leaders and their universities.
- Studiosity and Click will support these other streams by helping to arrange events and by publishing any outputs on the Future Focus website, so that a collection of valuable resources can be made publicly available.
- Dr Marc acknowledges that the AI in Teaching and Learning Framework is really helpful, and that with enormous challenges for education with the ongoing evolution of AI, these challenges will be more difficult to solve on our own than as a group.
- Dr Marc reiterated his interest in addressing the many operational challenges within universities and invited others to join him in looking at the range of topics this includes.

- Prof Ghassan added that another important area for exploration is the future of the student experience and learning. What will it look like? A group to look at future scenario planning and what future generations of students will be looking for is worth considering.
- Prof Rafid agreed and noted the importance of human connections, especially between students. Universities should consider whether making attendance mandatory will be necessary and how to make it interesting for students to attend.
- It was agreed that these two topics should be the focus of the next roundtable event.

**Expansion of the Future Focus Initiative to include universities in the rest of the Arab world**

- The steering committee agreed that CLICKS and Studiosity can prepare revised Terms of Reference for review and potential endorsement, proposing how an expanded initiative and its governance would work.

Close of meeting 13:59.