DRAFT: Post-Workshop Report on Let's Talk Community WORKshoPotluck

Introduction

The Let's Talk Community WORKshoPotluck was a highly successful workshop held at Alfaisal University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The workshop aimed to provide an opportunity for the participants to engage in community-building activities, exchange ideas, and collaborate to develop new community engagement projects. The event was aimed at promoting community engagement among the university's faculty and staff, and it achieved its objective. The workshop included brainstorming sessions where participants were grouped into five different tables to come up with innovative community engagement projects. In this report, we will highlight the key outcomes of the workshop, provide recommendations for project, process, and policy improvements that can be implemented at Alfaisal University.

You can add more items **Agenda Wise** to the report … so for example, add a section on **Wings of Hope**, etc.

Key Outcomes

The Let's Talk Community WORKshoPotluck was a highly successful event with the following outcomes:

1. **Increased Awareness:** The workshop increased awareness among the participants regarding the importance of community engagement and its impact on society.

2. **Innovative Ideas:** The brainstorming sessions resulted in innovative ideas that can be implemented to improve community engagement at Alfaisal University.

3. **Collaborative Efforts:** The event encouraged collaboration and teamwork among the participants, which will lead to more effective community engagement initiatives in the future.

4. **Actionable Results:** The workshop produced actionable results in the form of community engagement projects that can be implemented at Alfaisal University.

Recommendations

After the workshop, several recommendations were made to improve community engagement initiatives at Alfaisal University.

These recommendations can be grouped into three categories: Project, Process, and Policy.

Table 2: The Gladiators – Facilitator: Dr. Abdul Rehman Zia Zaidi

Comprehensive Idea (Combining Project + Process + Policy as per Table Discussions):

This was the idea presented by Dr. Doaa and Ms. Amal from Table 2 (transcribed from the video): Unify multiple projects into one project as we are all from various backgrounds. The name of the integrated project will be **Integrating Local Talent in Health Promotion Events**. We will be targeting the public

community and will hold an annual event. We are targeting the public community in this event. Our focus will be on the current existing and future generations leaders and we will also focus on how to integrate this event with the UNDP development program and Vision 2030/National Transformation Project. This will also ensure we have support from the leadership and get the go ahead to conduct this event. When it comes to the process, we will not go into details for now, and just think at a high level and so the process will include identifying the objectives of the event, and then specifying the target as we said earlier. We will then look for sponsors and accordingly allocate the funds. We also have to define the organizing and scientific committees. We will also make sure to make adequate announcements and market the event well for maximum exposure. After the event, we will also conduct a post-event evaluation for quality assurance so that we can make improvements every year to the event. Policy will include identifying all of the stakeholders, getting executive management approval, we will also make a flowchart for the whole event (from start to finish).

Additional Recommendations that were discussed among Table 2 members:

Project Recommendations:

1. **Alfaisal Cares:** A project that encourages Alfaisal University students, faculty, and staff to volunteer their time and skills to serve the local community through various activities such as charity drives, community service projects, and mentorship programs. [Similar to Volunteer Club?]

2. **Alfaisal Green Campus:** A project that promotes sustainability and environmental awareness within the university and the local community. The project can involve initiatives such as waste reduction, recycling, and energy conservation programs, as well as educational campaigns and events.

3. **Alfaisal Health and Wellness:** A project that promotes health and wellness within the university and the local community. The project can involve initiatives such as fitness programs, mental health support services, and health education campaigns. [Like the Adidas/BookJoggers Runs]

4. **Alfaisal Art and Culture:** A project that promotes art and culture within the university and the local community. The project can involve initiatives such as art exhibitions, music concerts, theater performances, and cultural festivals, as well as partnerships with local artists and cultural organizations.

5. **Establish a Community Engagement Committee:** Alfaisal University should establish a Community Engagement Committee to oversee all community engagement initiatives on campus. This committee will be responsible for developing and implementing community engagement projects.

6. **Engage Local Communities:** The university should work with local communities to identify their needs and develop community engagement projects that meet those needs. This will promote meaningful engagement with the local community and create a positive impact.

7. **Implement Service-Learning Programs:** Service-learning programs that incorporate community engagement should be integrated into the curriculum to encourage students to get involved in community engagement projects.

8. **Establish an annual Community Engagement Project grant program** to support faculty and student-led community engagement initiatives.

9. **Develop a mentorship program** that connects experienced community engagement practitioners with students and faculty who are interested in initiating community engagement projects.

10. **Create a system to recognize and celebrate successful community engagement projects and initiatives.**

Process Recommendations:

1. **Community Partnership Program:** A process that establishes partnerships between Alfaisal University and local community organizations to collaborate on projects, events, and initiatives that benefit both the university and the community. The program can be initiated by a dedicated community partnership office within the university.

2. **Community Engagement Forum:** A process that creates a platform for dialogue and collaboration between Alfaisal University and the local community. The forum can be organized on a regular basis and can involve representatives from both the university and the community to discuss issues of mutual interest and explore opportunities for collaboration.

3. **Student-Community Mentorship Program:** A process that establishes mentorship relationships between Alfaisal University students and members of the local community. This can involve pairing students with mentors who work in their field of study or who share their interests and hobbies, as well as providing training and support for both mentors and mentees.

4. **Provide Training and Support:** The university should provide training and support to faculty and staff members on community engagement. This will equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to develop and implement community engagement projects.

5. **Establish a centralized community engagement office or task force** under the CIPC composed of all colleges faculty and staff that provides guidance, resources, and support to students and faculty engaged in community engagement initiatives.

6. **Develop a community partnership database** to facilitate connections between Alfaisal University and local community organizations.

7. **Develop a standard evaluation framework for community engagement initiatives** that will enable the university to measure the effectiveness and impact of its community engagement initiatives.

Policy Recommendations:

1. **Service Learning Requirement:** A policy that requires students to participate in community service or volunteer work as part of their academic requirements. This can be achieved by incorporating service learning into the curriculum or by creating a dedicated community service program within the university. Basically minimum one community engagement activity per degree course (so in MBBS degree course over 5/6 years, just one activity is enough).

2. **Community Service Recognition:** A policy that recognizes and rewards Alfaisal University students, faculty, and staff who have made significant contributions to the local community through volunteer work and community service. This can involve creating a system for tracking and documenting community service hours and providing awards or other forms of recognition for those who have reached certain milestones.

3. **Integrate community engagement into the curriculum of all majors** to encourage and support students to engage in community engagement activities or better to have a **service learning requirement.**

4. **Establish a policy that provides financial and other support** for faculty and student-led community engagement initiatives.

5. **Establish a policy that recognizes community engagement as a valued and essential component of the university's mission** which can be done through **Community Service Recognition.**

General Recommendations made by Dr. Zaidi (Table 2):

1. **Emphasize the importance of <u>sustainability</u>:** In order for community engagement projects to have a lasting impact, it is important that they are designed with sustainability in mind. This means considering how the project will continue after the initial implementation phase, and ensuring that there is a plan in place for ongoing maintenance, support, and funding.

2. **Encourage collaboration across departments and colleges:** Community engagement is most effective when it is a cross-disciplinary effort. Encourage departments and colleges to work together on projects andd consider how different areas of expertise can be brought together to create innovative solutions.

3. **Support ongoing training and development:** Effective community engagement requires a range of skills and knowledge, including project management, communication, and cultural competency. Alfaisal can consider offering regular training and development opportunities for staff and students to build these skills.

4. **Develop clear communication channels:** It is important to have clear and accessible channels of communication for community engagement projects. This includes communicating with community partners, stakeholders, and participants, as well as internal communication within the university. Will this be done via CIPC or a collaboration between all?

5. **Foster a culture of inclusivity:** Community engagement projects should strive to be inclusive and equitable, ensuring that all members of the community have a voice and are able to

participate. This may involve actively seeking out diverse perspectives and feedback, and being mindful of culturl and linguistic barriers.

6. **Incorporate feedback and evaluation:** Regular evaluation and feedback are critical for ensuring that community engagement projects are effective and meeting their goals. Alfaisal/CIPC can potentially build regular check-ins and evaluations throughout the project lifecycle, and use this feedback to inform future planning and decision-making (a supervisor role).

7. **Consider the wider impact of community engagement:** While community engagement projects can have a direct impact on the immediate community, they can also have wider implications for the university and society as a whole. Consider how community engagement can be used to promote social responsibility, civic engagement, sustainable development, and beyond.

Table 5: The Avengers – Facilitator: Ayesha Khokar

This was the idea presented by Ms. Lana AlSaleh from Table 5 (transcribed from the video): Hearing from everyone from the other tables, all the ideas are wonderful. Hopefully by the end of our table's talk, it will tie the knot. Hope we have a sustained initiative and it is tailored for all of us not just the university level but the ministry level and community level and hope we can start it in the society. Our project is called **Community Engagement Platform**. We will define the team and it will consist of the association whose responsibility will be to take care of the policies and procedures and all that is expected from the individual, the university, and the ministry. That is how we will ensure that all efforts are recognized or foreseeable. Enablers will be the execution / action takers including fundraising. The ideas / initiatives that will start at an initiative level and will eventually reach a business model level. We could take note of everyone and work on the future. We need to spread awareness and take all the bits and pieces that no one has taken care of and actually combine them. The process will be user friendly and will be that we will inspire others and we will make sure that everyone has a say so if anyone has an idea they should have a voice to present it. They should not feel shy or feel any struggle. It will also be a teambuilding platform. Lets say it is a network at a community level, not only Alfaisal students/faculty/staff, it should be an example for the community. If you want to be an advisor, volunteer, or if you have a strategy or know the know how or input you want to share you would have access to it. What we are trying to emphasize here is that knowledge should be for all and not for one.

Table 4: The Winners- Facilitator: Dr. Racha Khaled:

Make a Difference (M.a.D) is the name of Table 4's initiative. The participants were very enthusiastic about the workshop, and everyone had some great suggestions for enhancing community engagement in Alfaisal educational system. Dr. Nora, a member of the Winners, presented a concise and a clear summary of our project.
Here are the main elements of the **M.a.D** project:
Aim
Create a community platform that provides educational, social, health, environmental, and economical services.
Foundation pillars:

1- Education: YouTube or media channels
Lecture series
Study groups
Mentorship and coaching
2- Social Responsibility:
Social aid
Create a platform that includes two members of each college (C.o.B, C.o.S, C.o.M, C.o.L, C.o.P, C.o.E)
3- Health and Behavior:
Mental health initiatives
Mindfulness
Safety and support
4- Environment:
Go green
Green building
5-Economy:
Time
Payback
Sustainability and generated revenue

Process and Policy
The initiative will follow a systematic evidence-based approach that is self-funded. The approach will incorporate need assessments, key performance indicators, and programmatic evaluations.
More to be discussed about how to adapt a methodology to execute this project in the next workshops.

Winners Announcement

We are proud to announce that all participants were winners in our eyes. Each table worked together and contributed to the development of a project that would benefit the community. The winners of each table were:

- Table 1 - Formers --> Winner for integrative project
- Table 2 - Gladiators --> Winner for synergetic project
- Table 3 - Firecrackers --> Winner for holistic project
- Table 4 - Winners --> Winner for comprehensive project
- Table 5 - Avengers --> Winner for collaborative project

Take Home Message

The Let's Talk Community WORKshoPotluck! workshop was a great success, and the recommendations provided above are meant to further enhance community engagement initiatives at Alfaisal University and beyond. It is hoped that the feasible recommendations will be seriously considered and

implemented by the university administration to improve the lives of those in the surrounding communities and help develop future leaders who are committed to community engagement.

Post-Event Feedback from Attendees

Bushra please add here the responses as per the Google form survey.