

## Aga Khan University

### 2023 Student Experience Report, Nairobi Campus

This report covers the Student experience activities for the period March 2022 – March 2023.

#### **1. Registrar Kenya, Manager Student Experience and the Sports Associate**

The Registrar's Office in Kenya was restructured to meet the requirements of the Commission for University Education in Kenya and as such the Manager- Student Experience joined the team in September 2022 , the Registrar Kenya in October 2022 and in addition the Sports Associate reported in February 2023

#### **2. Student Experience / Group Counselling Sessions**

The Student Experience / Group counselling sessions were included in the orientation timetable for all new students joining AKU Kenya programmes in 2022/2023. The session involved interaction between the Manager Student Experience and the counsellor. The Manager Student Experience informed the students of the services and support available to them while the counsellor informed them of the availability of counselling services during their study period at AKU as well as a talk on work life balance as they commenced their studies. Counselling services were provided by AKU Counselling office led by Dr Merali.

The following sessions were held:

- MADJ Orientation held on January 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- EMLLI Orientation held on February 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023
- SoNaM BsCN Orientation held on February 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023
- Medical College Orientation held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

The students were also welcomed with a cake which they celebrated with their Faculty-courtesy of the registrar's office.

#### **3. Election and Nomination of Student Leaders**

The 2021 /2022 AKUSA- Aga Khan University Students Association (AKUSA) term came to an end in the month of October 2022 and thus was due for an election for new members to join the leadership. Students interested in representing their programmes campaigned among their peers in readiness for elections held from October 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The Campaigns, elections, to the Hand over ran as below:

Campaigns	General Elections	SEC Elections	Swearing in and Hand Over	AGM
26 <sup>th</sup> Sep to 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 2022	12 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> October, 2022	21 <sup>st</sup> October, 2022	28 <sup>th</sup> October, 2022	28 <sup>th</sup> October, 2022

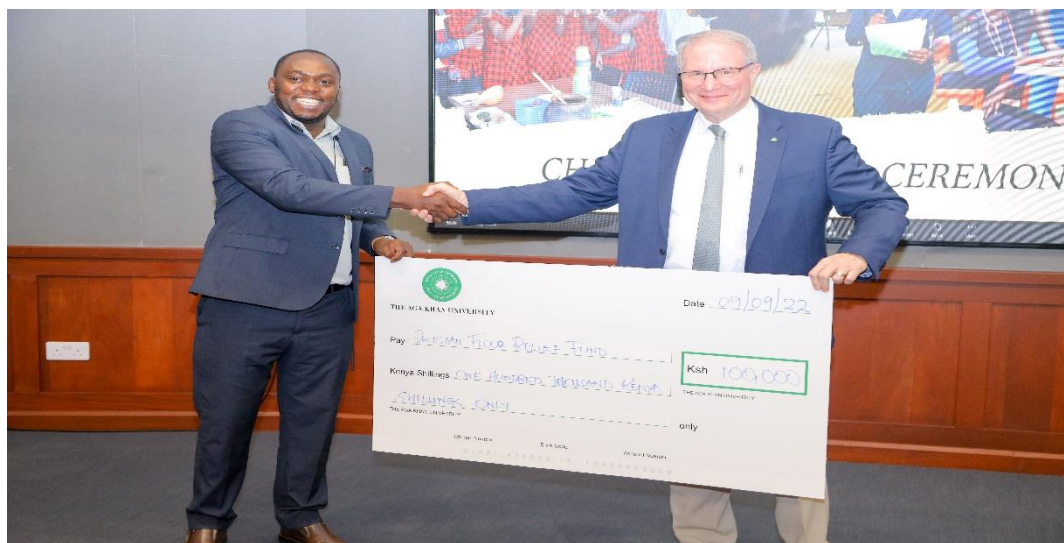
#### **4. Handing over Ceremony- Aga Khan University Students Association (AKUSA)**

The selected Congress members and members of the Students Executive Council were invited to be officially inaugurated into their leadership roles. The outgoing members were also invited to handover their tools of trade to the incoming office bearers. The ceremony was held on

November 9, 2022 at the University Centre in Nairobi and was attended by Deputy Vice Chancellor- ARE Carl Amrhein, the Deans and the University Registrar Dr Laila who joined online. The new members were sworn in and the outgoing officials received a certificate of service and thanked for their service. The Outgoing AKUSA led by the Chairman, Dr. Cyrus Matheka handed over to the DVC-ARE Carl Amrhein a cheque donation of Kshs 100,000 towards the Pakistan Floods Relief.



*Fig 1: Photo of AKUSA incoming Office*



*Fig 2: Photo of outgoing Akusa Chairman handing over a Cheque towards Pakistan Floods.*

## **5. End Year party**

The Student Experience Office together with the AKUSA planned a student's End of Year Party, where all students and residents were invited. The event was held at the University centre's courtyard and was attended by approximately 100 students across all programmes offered in Kenya. Activities involved a barbecue, music and dance, speeches from AKUSA. Food and beverages were served.



*Fig 3. Photos of End year farewell party 2022*

## **6. AKUSA LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

A leadership training for students' leaders for Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Pakistan was held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and a second session ran on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The training was coordinated by the Manager Student Experience Kenya and facilitated by GSMC Kenya. There are two sessions pending to be conducted in 2023.

## **7. SPORTS DAY – GYM, SWIMMING SAVES LIFE INITIATIVE & BLOOD DRIVE**

The swimming saves life initiative was actualized last year. Interested students were offered 12 free swimming lessons at the Aga Khan Sports Club. The office of the Student Experience also gave the students an opportunity to join the Health Club at a fee of Kshs 1000 while it met the rest of the costs.

As we prepared for the 2023 sports day, the Safety and occupational Health Department organised a one week health week where all students and staff were encouraged to check on their health. The AKUSA joined the team and rallied the students and staff to also donate blood to the AKUHN. About 5 people responded to the AKUSA call for blood donation. 2023 Sports Day was a partnership between AKU and AKUHN. The sports day was held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and it was a great success.





*The winning team (there were four teams from all AKU / AKUHN departments)*

## **8. STUDENT HOUSING,**

The University has acquired three housing properties namely, Mtama Road Apartments, Limuru Court Apartments and Royal Court Apartments. The properties will accommodate the UGNE/UGME students, GSMC students and the Residents. Mtama Road and Limuru courts are in the process of renovation, while Royal Apartments are ready for occupation. The properties will be managed by the office of the registrar in collaboration with the facilities management. The preparations are being accelerated for students joining AKU, Kenya in September 2023.



## 9. Corporate Social Responsibility: CSR

In 2022, the Interim Vice Provost Dr Laila met with the AKUSA and had a discussion on what their roles are and what opportunities were there for them as the leaders and for the students. In the discussions, the AKUSA said there was need for a CSR activity and especially to Muranga County where the Nurses and Doctors go for their study. It was agreed that this was a great idea and also because the Muranga County has an MOU with AKU.

The discussions are ongoing and the CSR will run in 2023.



*Fig 4. Dr Laila meeting with AKUSA*

## 10. IDEATION SPRINT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS.

The competition was open to all AKU students globally, and PGME interns, residents and fellows in Pakistan. The students were expected to conceptualize, develop, and implement student-led carbon footprint and climate change reduction strategies. Six (6) students from AKU Kenya registered to participate in the competition.