

email  
P. Bowen-Baker  
03-05-18

**Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of Senate  
Friday, March 2, 2018  
3:00 – 5:00 pm  
618 University Avenue**

- Present:** A. Abd-El-Aziz (Chair), R. Bissessur, B. Campbell, L. Chilton, D. Dahn, M. Doyle, N. Etkin, R. Gilmour, K. Gottschall-Pass, L. Hammell, L. Heider, A. Hsiao, G. Irvine, G. Jiwani, R. Kays, N. Kujundzic, S. Lee, G. Lindsay, R. MacDonald, T. Mady, R. Morin Chase, D. Moses, T. Nabuurs, C. Perry, R. Raiswell, C. Ryan, N. Saad, D. Sutton, and C. Thorne
- Regrets:** A. Braithwaite, P. Foley, G. Keefe, J. Krause, A. MacFarlane, E. MacNeill, M. Murray, J. Podger and G. Wedlake
- Absent:** G. Conboy, P. Drake, C. Kamunde, A. Khayyat, B. O'Keefe and M. Van den Heuvel
- Recorder:** D. MacLean, Administrative Assistant to Senate

President Alaa Abd-El-Aziz called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda**  
MOTION (T. Mady/B. Campbell) to approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED
2. **Approval of Minutes – January 19, 2018**  
MOTION (L. Chilton/L. Heider) to approve the minutes of January 19, 2018. CARRIED  
  
**Approval of Minutes of Special Senate Meeting – February 5, 2018**  
MOTION (M. Doyle/C. Perry) to approve the minutes of February 5, 2018 as presented. CARRIED
3. **Business Arising**  
President Abd-El-Aziz reported to senators that a joint degree in Global Affairs is being established with the King Juan Carlos University in Madrid, Spain. The President noted that he travelled to Spain recently along with Larry Hammell, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research; Donna Sutton, Registrar; and Doreley Coll, Faculty of Arts. We will be offering 5 courses here from September to December, and they will offer 6 courses plus a practicum which will occur in Madrid, Strasburg and Geneva. Because they are delivering 2/3 of the program, the student records will be with the University in Madrid. All our marks will be forwarded to them, and both universities will be there to present the certificate when the students graduate. The intake of students will involve a minimum of 12 students to a maximum of 25. There are a

great number of students interested in this program already. President Abd-El-Aziz informed Senators that the President of King Juan Carlos University will be here the end of April and will be investigating other possible partnership opportunities. The President thanked the Senate and the Board of Governors for their support of exploring and establishing this degree opportunity with King Juan Carlos University.

4. **President's Report**

President Abd-El-Aziz reported that the Canadian Mental Health Association(CMHA)- PEI Division, Cows Creamery, and UPEI participated in an ice cream social event which raised money for the CMHA – PEI Division in memory of Jason Driscoll. Jason was an Engineering student who took his own life in 2017. A large number of faculty, staff and students participated in the event.

The President also informed Senators that programs in Engineering, Business and Math & Computational Sciences will be beginning in September at the University of Canada in Egypt. He stated he was very grateful that the Senate and Board have supported this initiative. Dr. Robert Gilmour, Vice President Academic and Research will be going to Egypt in two weeks to deal with the logistics of the program. He will provide an update to senate at the next meeting.

President Abd-El-Aziz reminded Senators that the recent Federal Budget favors supporting research at universities, and he expects the Provincial Budget will be available within the next two weeks.

5. **Senate Reports**

a. **Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee Report**

Dr. Robert Gilmour indicated that the Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee met to discuss changing the designation of two academic units now known as “schools” to “Faculty”. The Committee is recommending these changes be made, and Dr. Gilmour provided the rationale for these changes to Senate, after which the following two motions were proposed:

**MOTION (K. Gottschall-Pass/A. Hsiao) that the School of Sustainable Design Engineering be renamed to the Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION (R. Kays/L. Heider) that the School of Graduate Studies be renamed to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

i. **Fourth Curriculum Report**

**Faculty of Arts**

***English***

**OMNIBUS Motion (N. Kujundzic/L. Chilton) that motions 1-17 be approved as noted below :**

**1) To delete English 3010.**

(See details on the Curriculum Report Attached – Page 3)

**2) To delete English 3020.**

(See details on the Curriculum Report Attached – Page 4)

**Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of Senate**  
**Friday, January 19, 2018**  
**3:00 – 5:00 pm**  
**618 University Avenue**

- Present:** A. Abd-El-Aziz (Chair), R. Blsseud, A. Braithwaite, B. Campbell, L. Chilton, D. Dahn, R. Gilmour, K. Gottschall-Pass, S. Myers (designate for N. Etkin), L. Hammell, L. Heider, A. Hsiao, G. Irvine, G. Jiwani, R. Kays, G. Keefe, J. Krause, N. Kujundzic, S. Lee, G. Lindsay, R. MacDonald, A. MacFarlane, E. MacNeill, T. Mady, D. Moses, M. Murray, T. Nabuurs, J. Podger, R. Raiswell, C. Ryan, N. Saad, D. Sutton, C. Thorne, and G. Wedlake
- Regrets:** R. Morin Chasse, A. Khayyat, and B. O’Keefe
- Absent:** G. Conboy, M. Doyle, P. Drake, P. Foley, C. Kamunde, and M. Van den Heuvel
- Recorder:** D. MacLean, Administrative Assistant to Senate

President Alaa Abd-El-Aziz called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda**  
MOTION (K. Gottschall-Pass/L. Chilton) to approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED

**MEETING MOVED “IN CAMERA”**

3. **Chancellor Search Committee Report**
7. c. **Honorary Degree Committee Report**
8. **Other Business – Canada Games 2023**

**MEETING MOVED TO OPEN SESSION**

2. **Approval of Minutes**  
MOTION (L. Chilton/D. Dahn) to approve the minutes of November 24, 2017 as amended. CARRIED
4. **President’s Report**  
President Abd-El-Aziz reminded senators of the \$2M donation received in December 2017 from Cavendish

**78) That a new course entitled Blue/Green Development Strategies for Small Islands (IST 6260) be approved as proposed.**

(See details on the Curriculum Report Attached – Page 115-116)

**79) That a new course entitled Subnational Island Jurisdictions (IST 6270) be approved as proposed.**

(See details on the Curriculum Report Attached – Page 117-118)

**80) To approve the following calendar entry change for the Master of Arts Island Studies program to include thesis and course based options.**

(See details on the Curriculum Report Attached – Page 119-131))

**ii) International Program Update**

**a) Masters in Global Affairs – King Juan Carlos University, Madrid, Spain**

Dr. Gilmour asked Dr. Larry Hammell to provide an update to Senators on this program. It was initially brought to Senate and Senate endorsed the University's exploration of a joint or dual degree as proposed by KJC University in Spain. President Abd-El-Aziz informed Senators that he's going to Madrid and has been asked to provide a keynote presentation. He will be meeting with the University representatives in Madrid to develop this joint/dual degree. More details will come after the visit in February. After some discussion, and the following motion was proposed:

**MOTION (L. Hammell/G. Jiwani) that Senate endorse that the School of Graduate Studies establish the joint/dual degree of Masters in Global Affairs with the King Juan Carlos University in Madrid, Spain. CARRIED**

**b) Offering Business, Engineering, and Math & Computational Sciences Programs in Egypt**

President Abd-El-Aziz informed Senators that we now have a formal agreement drafted. UPEI faculty will oversee these programs. We have also ensured that any disputes that occur have to be decided by PEI Law. President Abd-El-Aziz noted that any new programs are vetted through the Faculty Association.

The Associate Dean of School of Sustainable Design Engineering noted that the engineering faculty at University of Canada Egypt (UCE) must all be registered as professional engineers in Canada.

(In Canada, the licensing of professional engineers is regulated by the provinces and territories; therefore, all faculty members must be recognized by one of the 13 provincial/territorial associations; e.g., Engineers PEI.)

Dr. Gordon MacDonald, Associate Dean of Math and Computational Sciences was asked to also offer programs at UCE. The following motion was then proposed:

**MOTION (J. Krause/N. Saad) that Senate endorse that the Faculty of Business and the Faculty of Science partnering with The Canadian University in Egypt to provide programs in Business,**

**Engineering, and Mathematics and Computational Sciences. CARRIED**

**8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**9. Adjournment**

Motion (N.Saad) that the meeting be adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Sutton  
Secretary of Senate

**Attachment: Third Curriculum Report – January 19, 2018**



**Minutes of the Second Meeting of Senate**  
**Friday, October 27, 2017**  
**3:00 – 5:00 pm**  
**618 University Avenue**

- Present:** A. Abd-El-Aziz (Chair), H. Ahmed, R. Bissessur, A. Braithwaite, B. Campbell, L. Chilton, P. Courtenay-Hall, D. Dahn, M. Doyle, P. Drake, P. Foley, K. Gottschall-Pass, L. Hammell, L. Heider, A. Hsiao, G. Jiwani, G. Keefe, K. Khayyat, J. Krause, N. Kujundzic, S. Lee, A. MacFarlane, T. Mady, R. Morin Chasse, T. Nabuurs, B. O’Keefe, J. Podger, R. Raiswell, R. Reed-Jones (designate for N. Etkin), N. Saad, D. Sutton, C. Thorne, and Grace Wedlake
- Regrets:** G. Conboy, N. Etkin, R. Gilmour, G. Irvine, R. Kays, G. Lindsay, E. MacNeill, D. Moses, and C. Ryan,
- Absent:** R. MacDonald, C. Kamunde and M. Van den Heuvel
- Invited:** D. Sanderson, CIO  
N. Krouglicof, Associate Dean, School of Sustainable Design Engineering
- Recorder:** D. MacLean, Administrative Assistant to Senate

President Alaa Abd-El-Aziz called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda**  
**MOTION (K. Gottschall-Pass/H. Ahmed) to approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED**
  
2. **Welcome New Senators**  
President Abd-El-Aziz welcomed everyone and introduced the following new senators:  
  

**Ms. Bertha Campbell, Board of Governors’ Representation**  
**Dr. Doug Dahn, Physics, Faculty of Science, replacing Kathy Gottschall-Pass for the remainder of her term, to June 30, 2018**  
**Rachel Kays, Graduate Student Representative**
  
3. **Approval of Minutes**  
**MOTION (G. Jiwani/T. Mady) to approve the minutes of September 22, 2017 as presented. CARRIED**

**SECTION C:**

**MOTION (K. Gottschall-Pass/H. Ahmed) to change the composition of the Graduate Studies Advisory Committee as noted below. CARRIED**

**Composition of the Graduate Studies Advisory Committee**

Dean, School of Graduate Studies (Chair)  
Graduate Coordinator, AVC  
Graduate Coordinator, Faculty of Education  
Graduate Coordinator, Faculty of Science  
Graduate Coordinator, Faculty of Business  
Graduate Coordinator, Faculty of Nursing  
Graduate Coordinator, Faculty of Arts  
President, Graduate Student Association  
Representative, Postdoctoral Fellows  
Assistant Registrar  
Librarian or Designate

**CARRIED**

**b) Senate Committee on Scholarships and Awards Report**

The report was circulated to Senators for information.

**c) Academic Planning and Curriculum Report**

Four motions were presented for approval and are noted below:

1. **Motion (K. Gottschall-Pass/N. Kujundzic) to approve the calendar entry change for the Master of Arts Island Studies program with modifications as per MPHEC requirements. CARRIED**
2. **Motion (K. Gottschall-Pass/P. Courtenay-Hall) that UPEI suspend admission of students, effective immediately, into the Bachelor of Education – Human Resource Development [Bed (HRD)] degree program and the program be discontinued. CARRIED**
3. **Motion (K. Gottschall-Pass/A. Braithwaite) that the Department of History and the Department of Classics be amalgamated and renamed as the Department of History and Classics. CARRIED**
4. **Motion (K. Gottschall-Pass/J. Krause) to further explore an opportunity to deliver UPEI's Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) and Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Design Engineering (BSCSDE) programs in Egypt as part of a partnership with University Canada – Egypt (UCE).**

Professor Tarek Mady, Faculty of Business and Associate Dean Nicholas Krouglicof provided a power point presentation to Senators on item #4. Discussions followed the presentation, and then the motion was carried.



Issue 00503

03 May 2018

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EGYPT

# Will foreign branch campuses exacerbate inequality?

Wagdy Sawahel 27 April 2018 Issue No:503

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Egypt has approved a draft law to regulate the performance of foreign university branch campuses to be set up in Egypt's new administrative capital. But will it be enough to assuage concerns that the opening of foreign universities will exacerbate inequality and class division?

These concerns have been raised, among others, by a group calling itself the March 9 Movement for the independence of the university. In a recent Facebook post, it said: "The establishment of a number of foreign branch campuses in the new administrative capital contributes to the widening of the social and class gap and transforms university education into a method of class and community separation instead of being a contributing tool for social development."

About 28% of Egypt's 99 million inhabitants are currently living below the poverty line and that percentage jumps to 50% in Upper Egyptian cities, according to a local news report.

The draft legislation, approved at a 31 March meeting of the Egyptian council of ministers, coincides with a recent announcement by President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi that new private universities will not be allowed to operate in Egypt unless they have collaboration agreements with institutions rated among the top 50 universities in the world.

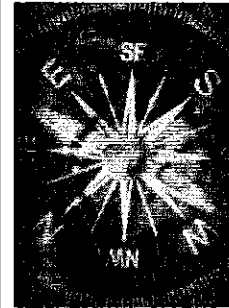
The first foreign campus recently inaugurated in the proposed new administrative and financial capital – to be located 45 kilometres east of Cairo – is a branch of the University of Prince Edward Island in Canada, according to a local news report. Another five universities from the United States, Britain, Hungary, Sweden and France are expected to be inaugurated by 2019.

The Technische Universität Berlin launched its first branch campus in Egypt in 2012, according to *US News and World Report*.

According to the new draft law, the decision to allow a new campus will be issued by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research after it has verified it meets all infrastructural and human resource requirements. There will be an annual fee paid by the branch campus for the services performed by state agencies which will not exceed 1% of the tuition expenses for the students of the branch campus.

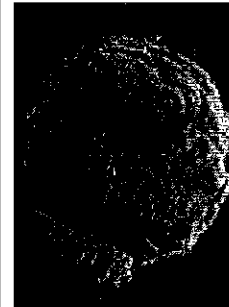
## This Week

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**It would be naïve to ignore the dark clouds threatening higher education internationalisation**

COMMENTARY



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Unintended policy consequences constrain student choice

The state agencies, among other things, will provide administrative, security and educational support and will ensure that the foreign university is able to exercise academic and institutional freedom and independence. Agencies will also facilitate the process of equalising the degrees awarded by the branch campus with those granted by Egyptian universities.

The branch campuses will be required to enrol a proportion of local students and employ a proportion of Egyptian staff in administrative and teaching roles.

All certificates awarded by the branch campus are to be recognised in the country from which the campus originates and there will be an annual allocation of grants to students and faculty allowing Egyptians to study or train at the main foreign university.

Each branch campus is required to submit a five-year plan outlining expected student numbers and costs and the branch will fall under the supervision of a council set up by the ministry of higher education to monitor quality.

#### **Valid concerns**

The concerns of the March 9 Movement around accessibility are valid in some respects, according to Christopher Hill, director of the Doctoral Training Centre at the British University in Dubai.

"International branch campuses (IBCs) may be cheaper than travelling abroad to a foreign university for study but they are usually more expensive than the local, state or national options and this can indeed create a divide."

"The issue is further exacerbated when it comes to employability as the preference is often to hire graduates with international experience or mobility."

Hill said that there was a danger that foreign providers may be perceived as having greater value and quality than the local institutions.

"Thus, it is important to ensure that clear and coherent accreditation and regulation processes are in place and branch campuses must adhere to national requirements and integrate with the national system where possible through clear lines of communication, awareness and collaboration in order to promote the branch campus model as an integrated element of national educational policy," Hill said.

But there are also benefits, said Hill.

"If properly managed, IBCs can help in raising the national profile and support higher education development through integrating and collaborating with the national institutions as well as opening avenues and opportunities for funding, exchange and research activity," Hill told *University World News*.

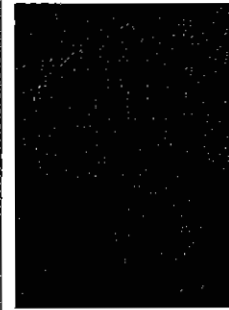
According to transnational education expert Nigel Healey, vice-chancellor of Fiji National University, there are three main benefits for the host country of allowing a foreign university to establish an IBC:

- Increasing the supply of university places and allowing more domestic students to study at home;
- Attracting students from neighbouring countries and generating foreign exchange and economic benefits for the host country; and
- The use of innovative technologies and pedagogies to educate students, which are then adopted by domestic competitors.

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### Local needs

The disadvantage of an IBC, said Healey, is that it is "generally teaching a curriculum designed for students on the home campus, using pedagogies and a medium of instruction that is alien to students in the host country".

However, this misalignment of the curriculum with local needs could be "ameliorated by allowing locally-hired faculty to adapt content and pedagogies to the needs of their learners and the expectations of local employers."

Healey agreed that there was a risk of IBCs serving social elites to the exclusion of poorer students.

"There is another potential risk that IBCs primarily serve social elites," Healey said. "The cultural distance between the IBCs and the host country results in their students becoming detached from their roots."

"Thus, if the IBC recruits a student base that is narrow and exclusive, it remains a possibility that elite students acquire 'Western' values that are alien to their compatriots," Healey said.

Rachael Merola, senior researcher at the Observatory on Borderless Higher Education, told *University World News* that IBCs that succeed over the long-term could be credited with providing much-needed education, training students for jobs and industries which are in demand, strengthening the reputation of the home university and the education system of the host country, and in some cases "fostering research links and other forms of collaboration between the home institution and entities in the host country".

She said that IBCs do not necessarily contribute to economic and social class division. "This is a function of how they are set up, and the governmental and institutional regulations in place."

However, branch campuses that do not succeed can bring "substantial financial loss and reputational damage to the home institution, disrupt higher education provision in the host country, and negatively impact enrolled students," she said.

According to Marina Apaydin, assistant professor of strategic management at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, and director of the Middle East and North Africa Regional Case Initiative, international branch campuses, rather than entrenching inequality, may succeed in facilitating a redistribution of intellectual capital.

"Such IBCs may be strong competitors for Egyptian universities and they may attract the best students, thus there will be a redistribution of intellectual capital ... However, Egyptian universities have strong legacy and brand names and, thus, this trend may not be that significant."

Apaydin said Egyptian universities should view the opening of IBCs not as a threat but as an opportunity for cooperation in teaching and research.

Understanding the purpose of branch campuses is the key, according to Hill.

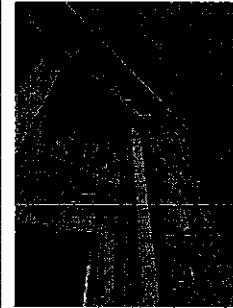
"Egypt already has American style universities in place and an incredibly long tradition of higher education. What is needed is a clear understanding of the purpose and focus of the branch campuses. What are they bringing? What value do they add to the nation? How will they integrate?"

### Rush for English-taught courses leads to European universities 'cannibalising' their own courses

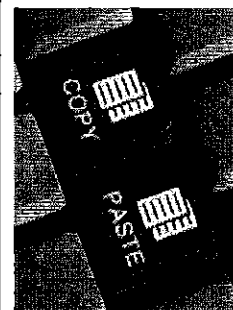


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### Will the opening of foreign university branch campuses in Egypt deepen inequality?



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Thursday May 3, 2018



University of Prince Edward Island -- Photo courtesy of the University's Facebook Page

## Prince Edward uni: 1st to be inaugurated in Egypt's new capital

By: Egypt Today staff Mon, Apr. 16, 2018



CAIRO – 16 April 2018: Egypt's New Administrative Capital will witness the inauguration of an international branch of the University of Prince Edward Island, based in Canada, on Tuesday April 17. It will be the first of six universities expected to be inaugurated by 2019.

The inauguration will be conducted by: the Canadian Ambassador in Egypt Jess Dutton, the president of the Board of Trustees and the president of the University of Prince Edward of Canada, a number of representatives from the university, the head of the Canadian International College (CIC) in Egypt and several other public figures.

CIC Head Magdy el-Kady said in statements to Egypt Today on April 16, that the Canadian university is ready to start its first academic semester

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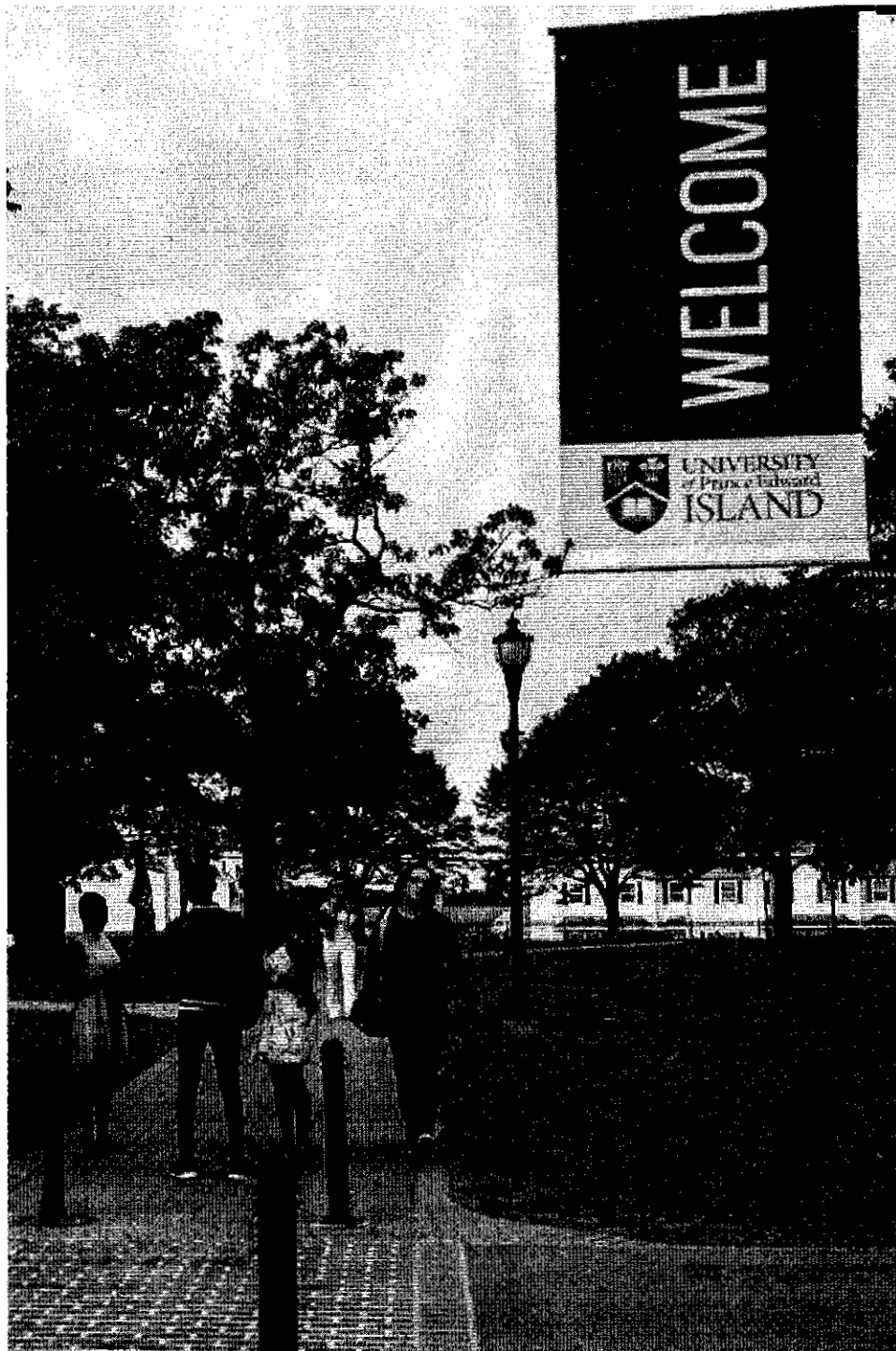


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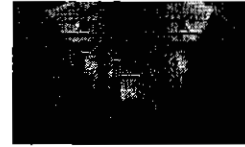
next September; however, it's not sure yet if the university will open then. Meanwhile, the other remaining international universities are still preparing their buildings and curricula.



University of Prince Edward Island – Photo courtesy of the University's Facebook Page

Prince Edward Island University is expected to kick off with three educational programs in Engineering, Computer Science and Business Administration, according to Kady.

A new regulating law for international colleges in Egypt is expected to be



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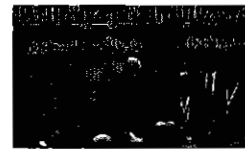
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Wed, May. 2, 2018



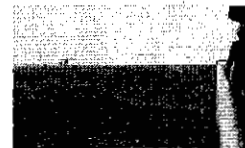
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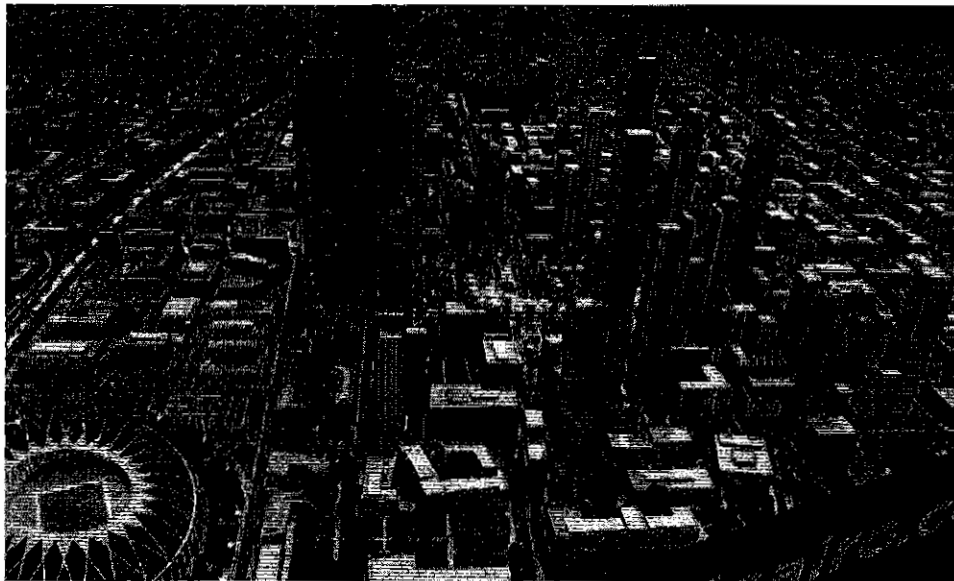
issued soon, according to Kady. He affirmed that the new legislation states that the certificates to be received by students from the universities' branches in the New Administrative Capital are the same as those of the original universities in the countries of origin.

The new international universities in Egypt will recognize Egypt's high school certificates, along with all other governmental certificates.

The other five international universities are expected to be from the United States, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Sweden and France, according to Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Khaled Abdul Ghaffar in early November 2017.



**Zamalek misses Gennesh, Fattouh in Egypt Cup semi-final**



FILE: a scale model of a planned new Administrative Capital

With an area of 170,000 feddans (176,460 acres), the new capital will include 20 residential areas expected to accommodate 6.5 million people and a road network 650 km in length. The capital will include an international airport and an electric train to link it with the 10th of Ramadan and El-Salam cities.

Also, it will feature 1,250 mosques and churches, a 5,000-seat conference center, nearly 2,000 schools and colleges, over 600 medical facilities, and a park that is projected to be the world's largest.

**Egypt**

**University of Prince Edward Island**

**Egypt's New Administrative Capital**

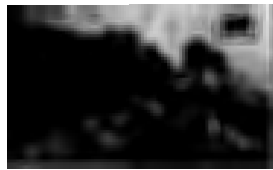
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## Egypt

Public criticism of the government remained effectively banned in Egypt in 2016. Police arrested scores of people in connection with protests, many preemptively. Authorities ordered travel bans and asset freezes against prominent human rights organizations and their directors and brought criminal charges against the head of the Press Syndicate and the country's top anti-corruption official. Parliament proposed a new law regulating nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that would effectively end independent human rights work in the country.

Members of the security forces, particularly the Interior Ministry's National Security Agency, continued to routinely torture detainees and forcibly disappeared hundreds of people with little or no accountability for violations of the law. The disappearance, torture, and death of Italian doctoral researcher Giulio Regeni, probably at the hands of security services, highlighted these abuses and caused a diplomatic rift between Egypt and Italy.

Investigations by National Security officers, often without any hard evidence, formed the basis of many of the 7,400 or more military trials of civilians brought since President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi issued a decree widening the scope of military jurisdiction in 2014.

Conditions in detention remained harsh. The quasi-official National Council for Human Rights continued to report that prisons and other detention facilities were severely overcrowded. Conditions were particularly harsh in Cairo's Scorpion Prison, where inmates, most of them political prisoners, suffered abuses at the hands of Interior Ministry officers, including beatings, force feedings, deprivation of contact with relatives and lawyers, and interference in medical care that may have contributed to at least six deaths in 2015.

## **Security Force Abuses**

Officers of the National Security Agency routinely tortured and forcibly disappeared suspects with few consequences. Many of the detainees who suffered these abuses were accused of sympathy with or membership in the Muslim Brotherhood, which the government named a terrorist group in 2013 but has remained the country's largest opposition movement.

Between August 2015 and August 2016, the Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms, an independent group, documented 912 victims of enforced disappearance, 52 of whom had not reappeared by the time the group issued its report.

National Security officers routinely tortured suspects during these enforced disappearances. Between January and October 2016, 433 detainees claimed that police or prison officers mistreated or tortured them while they were in custody, according to a count by the Nadeem Center for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture based on media reports, lawyers' statements, criminal complaints, and other sources. In one case documented by Human Rights Watch, National Security officers in Alexandria forcibly disappeared and tortured 20 people, including eight children, in connection with a protest and an alleged arson attack on a garage and a traffic police vehicle.

Incidents of abuse by police officers, including fatal incidents of torture and illegal killings at protests, rarely resulted in accountability. Of the hundreds of such cases recorded in media reports and by activist groups since July 2013, when the military ousted Former President Mohamed Morsy, only 10 had gone through trial as of October 2016, resulting in six guilty verdicts against police officers.

Many convicted officers have appealed initial verdicts and won acquittals or shorter sentences. In February, Egypt's highest appeals court ordered a retrial for an officer originally sentenced to 15 years for shooting and killing political activist Shaimaa al-Sabbagh at a peaceful protest in January 2015, an incident that was photographed and videotaped. In October, the same court ordered a retrial for two officers who received five-year sentences for torturing lawyer Karim Hamdy to death in a police station in 2015.

## **Freedom of Assembly**

A 2013 decree that effectively banned all anti-government protests remained in place, though it was subject to an ongoing legal challenge before the Supreme Constitutional Court.

Police made large, pre-emptive raids and arrests on two occasions when they anticipated protests.

Beginning in December 2015, police arrested dozens of people in a number of governorates whom they accused of planning protests timed for the January anniversary of the 2011 uprising. In the days ahead of the anniversary, police raided numerous downtown Cairo apartments, searched them without warrants, and arrested some activists, including Taher Mokhtar, a doctor who had advocated for better detention conditions. A court in August ordered Mokhtar released on bail pending investigation.

One official at the National Security Agency told Reuters on January 21: “We have taken several measures to ensure activists don’t have breathing space and are unable to gather, and several cafés and other meeting places have been closed, while some have been arrested in order to scare the rest.”

After a rare mass demonstration on April 15 against President al-Sisi’s decision to cede two Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia, activists planned a follow-up protest for April 25. Police arrested at least 382 people in the days leading up to and during the dispersal of the second protest, many from their homes or downtown Cairo cafés. Police stopped people riding public transportation or walking in the street, inspected mobile phones without warrants, and arrested phone owners if they found anti-government images.

Prominent human rights lawyer Malek Adly, arrested in May after filing a legal challenge against al-Sisi’s decision to cede the islands, was released without bail in late August but still faced charges of spreading false rumors, inciting protests, and attempting to overthrow the government.

## **Freedom of Association**

Parliament and authorities took unprecedented steps to restrict independent human rights work by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), threatening their very existence.

In September, a Cairo criminal court approved a request from a panel of investigative judges to freeze the assets of three organizations and the personal assets of five people who founded or led prominent human rights groups. The investigative judges had previously banned at least 12 NGO directors, founders, and staff members from travelling outside Egypt. Activists said the travel bans were probably a prelude to the filing of criminal charges against them for illegally receiving foreign funding.

Under penal code article 78, amended by decree by President al-Sisi in 2014, NGO workers can receive a 25-year sentence under such charges if a judge determines that they received foreign funding for “pursuing acts harmful to national interests” or other broad reasons.

In November, parliament swiftly approved a new law regulating NGOs after no public debate or input from civil society. The law would effectively eliminate independent human rights work, placing all NGOs under the effective veto power of a council dominated by representatives of the General Intelligence Service and Interior and Defense Ministries and allowing the council to dissolve NGOs based on broadly worded infractions. It would punish anyone violating the law with a prison term of one to five years and a fine of 50,000 to 100,000 Egyptian pounds (US\$3,160-\$6,300). In late November, the law still awaited legal advice of the State Council and approval from President al-Sisi.

In February, local government authorities and security officers ordered the closure of the Nadeem Center for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture for allegedly violating the terms of its license, but the center remained open pending negotiations with the Health Ministry. In June, an investigative judge interrogated human rights lawyer Negad al-Borai, who had been involved in drafting an anti-torture law, on charges that he received illegal funding, established an unlicensed entity, and spread false information. Al-Borai has been interrogated on these charges six times.

## **Freedom of Expression**

On May 29, prosecutors summoned the head of the Press Syndicate and two senior board members for questioning. The following day, they charged the men with “harboring suspects against whom an arrest warrant has been issued” and “publishing false news, which threatens public peace.” The charges were related to an unprecedented police raid on the Press Syndicate headquarters on May 1, during which police arrested two journalists whom they accused of belonging to the April 6 Youth Movement.

On July 28, a Cairo court for minor offenses convicted Hisham Geneina, the country’s former top corruption watchdog, for disseminating false information and gave him a suspended one-year sentence. Geneina appealed the verdict but had to pay a fine of 20,000 Egyptian pounds (\$2,252) and 10,000 (\$1,126) for bail. President al-Sisi removed Geneina in March after Geneina claimed to have uncovered tens of billions of dollars-worth of government corruption.

In May, police arrested four members of the Street Children satire troupe who had posted videos on YouTube mocking al-Sisi and government policies. Though a court ordered the four released in September, they still faced charges of using social media sites to undermine the country’s stability by inciting citizens to protest.

In February, writer and novelist Ahmed Nagi received a two-year sentence for what the prosecution described as “sexually explicit” content in his novel, *Using Life*, parts of which appeared in a newspaper.

## **Freedom of Religion**

In August, parliament passed a long-awaited law on church building that maintained restrictions over the construction and renovation of churches and discriminated against the country’s Christian minority.

The new law allows governors to deny church-building permits with no stated way to appeal, requires that churches be built “commensurate with” the number of Christians in the area, despite the lack of official census statistics, and contains provisions that allow authorities to deny construction permits if granting them would undermine public safety,

potentially subjecting decisions on church construction to the whims of violent mobs that have attacked churches in the past.

Between May and July, anti-Christian violence, prompted or preceded by suspicion among some local Muslims about actual or alleged church construction, left one person dead, several injured, and numerous Christian properties destroyed. Authorities continued to fail to protect Christian minorities from sometimes fatal attacks and imposed “reconciliation sessions” that allow Muslim perpetrators to escape prosecution and foster impunity.

In February, a juvenile minor offenses court sentenced four Christian children to five years in prison for posting a video online mocking the Islamic State (also known as ISIS). The boys fled Egypt in April. In March, an appeals court upheld a three-year sentence for contempt of religion against the writer Fatma Naout for criticizing the Muslim tradition of slaughtering livestock as a sacrifice on Eid al-Adha.

Egyptian human rights groups documented unlawful harassment of other religious minorities, including Shia Muslims and atheists, such as arbitrary travel bans and summonses for interrogations.

### **Violence and Discrimination against Women**

In August, parliament passed an amendment to a law prohibiting female genital mutilation (FGM), increasing the penalties. The new law provided for prison terms of five to seven years for those who carry out FGM and up to 15 years if the procedure results in permanent disability or death. Anyone who escorts girls to undergo female genital mutilation will also face one to three years in prison. FGM is still widely practiced, and prosecutors have only obtained one conviction since the law was passed in 2008.

In September, a group of eight women’s rights organizations released a statement commending the government for initiating its “National Strategy to Combat Violence Against Women” in 2015 but recommended creating a follow-up committee to ensure that government ministries were actually carrying out the strategy.

Sexual harassment and violence against women remained endemic. The Interior Ministry appointed Brig. Gen. Nahed Salah, a woman, to a new position in charge of combating violence against women. Salah publicly urged women to avoid talking or laughing loudly in public and to be cautious about how they dress to avoid street harassment.

Women continued to face discrimination under Egypt's personal status law on equal access to divorce, child custody, and inheritance.

### **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

Sexual relations outside marriage are criminalized. Since 2013, authorities have pursued a campaign to intimidate, track, and arrest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people, including entrapment using social media applications. Police regularly used forced anal examinations in prosecutions of those suspected of homosexual sex.

Solidarity With Egypt LGBTQ+, an advocacy group, said it had recorded 114 criminal investigations involving 274 LGBT individuals launched between the end of 2013 and November 2016, 66 of which involved the authorities' use of social media.

### **Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Migrants**

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there were 212,500 registered refugees and 38,171 asylum seekers in Egypt in 2016. Since January 2015, Egyptian authorities arrested more than 2,300 people for attempting to enter or leave the country in an irregular manner, according to the UNHCR. A report by the independent website Mada Masr stated that the UNHCR recorded 3,742 migration-related detentions on the north coast of Egypt by August.

In November, President al-Sisi signed a new law on irregular migration, stiffening penalties for smugglers and shielding asylum seekers and smuggled migrants from criminal responsibility but failing to enshrine key rights. The law provides for harsher prison terms for those who smuggle women and children and life sentences for those involved in organized crime or who smuggle a migrant who dies. But it does not guarantee non-refoulement—the principle that countries will not send migrants back to places where they risk persecution, torture, or a threat to life.

## **Key International Actors**

In April 2016, during a visit to Cairo by President François Hollande, France signed deals to build a military telecommunications satellite, extend the Cairo metro, and finance a wind farm and solar power plant. In June, France delivered the first of two Mistral class helicopter carriers to Egypt, part of a spree of Egyptian arms purchases from France that have also included a FREMM-class frigate, four Gowind-class corvettes, and 24 Rafale fighter jets. Hollande said in a press conference that he raised issues of human rights, specifically the case of Eric Lang, a French teacher murdered in a Cairo jail cell in 2013.

In March, United States Secretary of State John Kerry criticized the reopening of the investigation into the funding of local Egyptian NGOs, saying he was “deeply concerned by the deterioration in the human rights situation in Egypt in recent weeks and months.”

During two visits to Egypt in April and May, Kerry’s public remarks stressed cooperation against the Islamic State extremist group and made no comment on human rights concerns. In April, a US Government Accountability Office report documented the US government’s failure to fully implement required end-use monitoring and human rights vetting for US military equipment purchased by Egypt under the US’ annual \$1.3-billion Foreign Military Financing program. The White House issued a statement in September calling on Egypt to release US-Egyptian citizen Aya Hegazy, who ran a center for homeless children before her arrest in May 2014.

During a meeting with President al-Sisi during the United Nations General Assembly in September, two months before being elected president, Donald Trump expressed “strong support for Egypt’s war on terrorism” and pledged that his administration “will be a loyal friend, not simply an ally.”

The disappearance, torture and murder of Italian doctoral researcher Giulio Regeni, who was in Egypt to research labor unions, caused a diplomatic rift with Italy after media reports quoted unnamed members of the security services who said that they had arrested Regeni before his death. Italy recalled its ambassador and expressed anger at apparent Egyptian efforts to stall the investigation, which remained ongoing as of October 2016.



In April, the United Arab Emirates pledged \$4 billion of aid to Egypt, adding to the \$20 billion already granted or loaned by other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council since former President Morsy's 2013 ouster. In October, Ali Mamlouk, head of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's intelligence services, visited Cairo for the second time in a year, reportedly to discuss security cooperation. Mamlouk's visit, together with Egypt's support for Russia on Syria at the United Nations Security Council, raised diplomatic tensions with Saudi Arabia, which supports armed groups fighting al-Assad's forces.

In September, the International Monetary Fund reached a staff-level agreement with Egypt on a \$12 billion loan program aimed at raising revenue and cutting spending. The agreement would require Egypt to cut subsidies, impose a new value-added tax, and float the Egyptian pound.

