



AAICU Cairo Declaration

April 12, 2008

At the Meeting at the American University in Cairo, April 10 – 12, 2008, the Presidents, Provosts and Chief Academic Officers of the Association of American International Colleges and Universities (AAICU) unanimously declared as follows:

AAICU is a leadership organization representing academic institutions conceived and organized on the American model of higher education. Institutional autonomy, vouchsafed by independent boards of trustees, and accreditation by a major recognized U.S. accrediting authority are conditions of full membership.

AAICU member institutions aim at a global standard of excellence by providing privileged spaces of intellectual interchange, academic freedom and responsibility. They also promote the pursuit of learning and of democratic values so their graduates are prepared for the rapidly changing needs of the twenty-first century. AAICU member universities are important contributors to research and development locally and internationally. With strong roots in their respective host countries—where they enjoy wide recognition—they are embedded in their international settings. AAICU members are therefore capable of bridging cultures and fostering dialogue among nations within the framework of the American liberal arts tradition. They are both expressions of and vehicles for the growing international acceptance of the U.S. system of higher education and the increasing importance of English as the language of international communication. In the contemporary knowledge-driven world, with its global economy and trans-border social issues, they play a crucial role in establishing, embodying, and verifying standards of educational excellence.

AAICU's capacity to monitor educational quality is of particular value at a time when institutions proliferate which claim to follow and satisfy U.S. standards. AAICU institutions provide, furthermore, tested venues for increasingly popular study abroad programs, assuring the compatibility of credits with US practices and providing the benefits of extensive knowledge of the host countries.

AAICU provides a valuable forum for the exchange of information and ideas among its members, thereby facilitating mutual institutional support and continuous improvement. It serves as an advocate for American style higher education overseas and it provides guidance to new institutions that share its aspirations and values. It seeks to reflect the efforts and achievements of its members making them more visible to constituencies in the United States and abroad.

AAICU institutions are among America's most important cultural assets in different regions of the world, and are deserving of both public and private support. In particular, AAICU urges the federal government to support the work of our institutions through expanded eligibility and funding of existing programs such as:

- **American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) grants through the U.S. Agency for International Development;**
- **Research support through federal science and technology agencies like the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities;**
- **Educational grants and scholarship support from the U.S. Department of Education; and**
- **Educational and cultural exchange programs administered by the U.S. Department of State.**

AAICU further urges U.S. foundations and corporations to strengthen their support for U.S. higher education institutions around the world, recognizing the vital role of these institutions in advancing social progress, fostering economic development and educating future leaders in their respective host countries.

Adopted and Approved by the Annual Meeting of AAICU Member Institutions, April 12, 2008 in Cairo, Egypt.

Members of the Association of American International Colleges and Universities

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