

THE EGYPTIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
IN NORTH AMERICA



ESANA

(WWW.ESANA.ORG)

ESANA NEWSLETTER

News from the Egyptian Students Association in North America (ESANA)



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ESANA VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I- Meeting with Ms. Aya Khalil, Missions Department director:

The discussion included the following points:

1. The decisions taken by the Missions Department and their consequences on Egyptian scholars and their families. Ms. Aya reported that these decisions were taken based on the advice from the ECEB counselors all over the world. The point of ESANA, regarding this issue, was made clear based on a report, prepared by ESANA media officer, describing in detail the living expenses in the USA and Canada. Based on ESANA suggestions the following actions were taken:

- a. Ms. Aya approved a memo to be presented to a committee to increase the salaries of government-funded students in Canada by 15-20% and those who study in the USA by 10-15%.
- b. She also approved a memo to the Treasurer Department to increase the tax exemption of students.

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2. The delay in receiving the salaries of December 2003 and its consequences on scholars and their families. Ms. Aya said that the salaries were sent to the ECEB two months in advance as well as the other expenses and that there should be no delays. The ESANA vice-president presented an official complaint and Ms. Aya called the ECEB counselor at once who said that the delays were due to Thanksgivings holidays. As a result, the salaries of December and January were sent immediately.
 3. Regarding the problem of the students with the ECEB and the complaints that the employers are not responding fast enough. Ms. Aya said that we should deal directly with the counselor not the with the employers, however we should report, in a written memo, to the Missions Department of any inappropriate incident from the employers whatever the incident is and they will take care of it.
 4. Ms. Aya asked if we could find training courses for a couple of the employees of the Missions Department in American and Canadian universities. The Missions Department will pay for travel and pocket money expenses to be trained on the admission procedures and study requirements.
 5. There were also discussions with Ms. Aya that four years are not enough to earn the PhD in the USA and Canada in certain disciplines. She suggested that decisions made regarding this issue should be determined by the academic advisors and should vary according to the area of research.
 6. ESANA budget was discussed and the discussion will be continued with ESANA President.

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E S A N A

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II- Meeting with Dr. Farouk Abdelkader SCU President:

A letter received from Dr. Abdelkader to the ESANA Vice-President as well as to Dr. J Torio, project book share, ACS, including the approval of SCU to receive the 2nd free container of the book shipment to SCU. A fax was sent to Dr. Torio on December 20th 2003 regarding this issue and shipping is in progress now.

III- Meeting with Dr. Abdelhay Ebid the Secretary of the USC

ESANA President met Dr. Abdelhay Ebid to discuss the graduate degree recognition issue. Dr. Ebid reported that the evaluation is to be made by the department and not the university. He also said that the process of degree recognition should not take more than three months and that there is no difference between government and self-funded students. The discussion also included other issues regarding ESANA activities and the ESANA budget.

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MEDIA AFFAIRS OFFICE

A letter on the *Hijab* issue, published in Asharq Alawsat newspaper, London, January 19, 2004:*

(<http://www.asharqalawsat.com>)

JAN.19, 2004

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UNITS AFFAIRS OFFICE

- A new unit has been opened at Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada.
- Attempts to open new units at Memphis TN, Dallas TX, Baltimore MD, Lexington, KY, Provo UT.

* The original title was: "نداء إلى شيخ الأزهر"