





A CLOSE-KNIT FAMILY DEDICATED TOWARDS EXCELLENCE

Ms. Thilini De Silva

Dean -Faculty of Business

How would you describe your role as the Dean of the faculty?

I think working as a Dean of a faculty is a very responsible job because in a university the degree programs are awarded through the faculty. In the Faculty of Business, we award all the degrees relating to business management. In NSBM Green University out of the 11,000 students, nearly 6,000 students are learning in the Faculty of Business. So, we are the biggest community in the university in terms of student numbers and we are awarding 27-degree programs across seven departments. We also award both NSBM and foreign affiliated degree programmes; University of Plymouth and Victoria University. So, as the Dean, my responsibilities spread across all the academic and examination related activities, subject circle related activities to the faculty members related activities. I think it is a very responsible job and it requires a lot of effort in terms of thinking, the ability to listen to people's queries and implement relevant policies and procedures to smoothly operate the functions of the faculty and the departments. The role of the Dean is like a role of a manager.



I have to play different roles at different times. Sometimes I'm a spokesperson, monitor, disseminator, a disturbance handler and a new thinker. Though the title is given as the Dean, I play many roles in par with the activities which are assigned to me as the Dean. Also, I personally believe it is a very responsible job and not a 9 am – 5 pm job. I have to always be prepared to fulfil my duties and I'm trying my best to play my role as the Dean of the Faculty of Business.

What are the unique qualities about your faculty?

The most unique quality about the faculty is the team. I think this is why my faculty is different from any other faculty in the university and other universities. It comprises with myself and 55 permanent internal academic members and 7 non-academic members who are running this entire faculty with much dedication. I think we are all passionate about the tasks and challenges given to us. Also, we consider our team as our family by having a very good rapport with each other. The culture

we have established at the faculty makes all the comprehensive roles very simple and happy. Further, the student community of the faculty are empowered to engage with different student activities, under every department we have established subject circles where students can come up with various projects to polish their personalities. Hence, it is evident that the positive attitudes of the student community and the staff are the uniqueness of the faculty.

What is the most challenging task in managing your faculty and how do you face those challenges?

The expansion of the faculty is a bit challenging with the growth of student and faculty members. Also, as a university we have many stakeholders, including students, parents, ministries, foreign affiliated universities etc., so working with different stakeholders who have different interests which cause conflicts is challenging. However, as a faculty we have agreed different procedures for tasks that we perform



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with the approval of the Vice Chancellor to deliver a quality service to our stakeholders. Being on par with international standards and working ahead with our competitors are some other challenges; nevertheless, as a team, we are facing it successfully with the help of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. E.A. Weerasinghe who has a very good intuition about the higher education system in local and international contexts. We also receive immense support from our Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Chaminda Rathnayake and Head of Academic Development and Quality Assurance, Prof. Baratha Dodankotuwa.

How does the future look like for the faculty?

I see a very bright future of the Faculty of Business in terms of academic and extra-curricular activities with the strong foundation we have laid since 2016 and the establishment of departments. Also, as the

largest faculty, we have trained our academic staff to deliver any kind of administrative role on par with their academic excellence. The faculty strives with a unique culture where all the faculty members are adhering to the policies and procedures despite the position they hold. Also, the faculty has collaborated with professional bodies like ACCA, CIMA, SLIM and CIM. Further, as a faculty that always thrive to have quality, we are in the process of achieving the AACSB accreditation, and Commonwealth accreditation. And the industry collaborations play a vital role in terms of getting placements for our students. Moreover, now we are in the process of absorbing the quality products of our own university to the faculty as academic members as to improve the loyalty towards the faculty. So, I think with the things we do now, we will have a tomorrow.

What message would you like to share at this special moment of celebrating successful 5 years at NSBM Green University?

I'm a proud member of NSBM, who was there as a contributing team member along with the pillar of strength of this university, our Vice-Chancellor. All the challenges we faced made us stronger. Also I am truly humbled to say that I have been a part of many success stories in the last 10 years. I think from 2016, the five years we spent in this state-of-the-art facilities university is the best five years of NSBM with the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor along with staff members and our students. Today we are celebrating five years with a happy note, and we have a very long way to go by strengthening our team. I wish the leadership, Prof. E.A. Weerasinghe, Prof. Chaminda Rathnayake, Prof. Baratha Dodankotuwa and the NSBM family to enhance the all the power, energy, positive attitude to serve this university to shape our future generation and ultimately serve our country for years to come. ■

By Dinusha Sathsarani