



# PHOENICIA UNIVERSITY

## Annual Ethics Committee Report

Academic Year 2024 – 2025

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## **1. Introduction**

This report presents a structured overview of the Ethics Committee’s advisory and oversight activities for the academic year 2024–2025. In accordance with the University’s Ethics Committee Policy, the Committee operated as a strategic governance body providing ethical guidance, policy advice, and institutional oversight.

As outlined in the Policy, the Committee’s mandate is advisory rather than disciplinary. Accordingly, the Committee did not conduct investigations nor issue sanctions. All matters were formally referred through established channels including the Disciplinary Committee, the Risk Management Committee, and Executive Management. Throughout AY 2024–2025, the Committee applied the principles set forth in the Ethics Committee Policy to review cases, evaluate institutional processes, and provide informed recommendations aimed at strengthening ethical culture, protecting fairness, and supporting sound decision-making across the University.

## **2. Mandate, Composition, and Meetings**

### **2.1 Mandate**

The Committee provides advisory oversight across four domains:

- Ethical Oversight
- Policy Advice
- Crisis Ethics
- Institutional Integrity

### **2.2 Composition**

The Committee comprised representatives from:

- Senior Academic Leadership (Chair)
- Legal Affairs
- Human Resources
- Student Affairs
- Faculty Members
- Counseling Services
- Student or Alumni Representation

Where necessary, subject-matter expertise was invited on an advisory basis.

## 2.3 Meetings

The Committee convened **four scheduled meetings** during AY 2024–2025, in addition to extraordinary meetings during crisis periods.

## 3. Ethical Oversight of Referred Matters

### 3.1 Student Academic Integrity Case (*Referred by the Disciplinary Committee*)

#### **Ethical Issue:**

A student committed a repeated academic integrity violation. The matter raised proportionality and consistency considerations.

#### **Ethical Review Focus:**

- Fairness of sanctions
- Alignment with institutional precedent
- Documentation standards
- Equity in enforcement

#### **Committee Advice:**

The Committee recommended confirmation of disciplinary measures and advised enhanced documentation of case resolution to ensure transparency and auditable consistency.

### 3.2 Faculty Professional Conduct Case (*Referred by Executive Management and HR*)

#### **Ethical Issue:**

A faculty member was subject to complaints alleging biased academic treatment and unprofessional conduct.

#### **Ethical Review Focus:**

- Faculty accountability
- Student welfare
- Ethical classroom practices
- Institutional reputation risk

**Committee Advice:**

The Committee advised decisive action to restore professional integrity and recommended enhanced monitoring of faculty conduct through departmental leadership.

**3.3 Student Digital Communication Case (*Referred by the Discipline Committee*)****Ethical Issue:**

A student engaged in inappropriate communication toward faculty through digital platforms.

**Ethical Review Focus:**

- Digital professionalism
- Respectful conduct standards
- Boundary setting in online communication

**Committee Advice:**

The Committee recommended formal institutional response and advised reinforcing guidance on ethical digital behavior through student awareness initiatives.

**4. Crisis Ethics – War in Lebanon (2024)**

*(Referred by the Risk Management Committee)*

During the national conflict, the Ethics Committee convened multiple extraordinary sessions to advise on ethical implications related to academic continuity and student welfare.

**4.1 Equitable Access to Learning****Ethical Concern:**

Students faced unequal access to digital tools and stable environments.

**Committee Advice:**

The Committee recommended adoption of a temporary laptop loan program to prevent instructional exclusion.

## **4.2 Exam Integrity and Fairness**

### **Ethical Concern:**

The emergency posed risks of inequitable assessment treatment.

### **Committee Advice:**

The Committee endorsed a structured assessment accommodation model that balanced flexibility with academic integrity.

The model incorporated:

- Differential exam scheduling
- Integrity safeguards
- Documentation and consistency checks

## **5. Policy Advice and Institutional Development**

### **5.1 Ethical Governance of AI**

The Committee reviewed institutional policy on student use of AI.

#### **Advice Issued:**

- Clear boundaries for permitted and prohibited use
- Academic integrity safeguards
- Faculty guidance in detection and assessment design

### **5.2 Assessment Accommodation Policy**

The Committee reviewed institutional readiness in relation to differently abled students.

#### **Policy Advice Included:**

- Implementation of an Accommodation Request Form
- Clear procedural governance
- Institutional responsibility allocation
- Formal documentation practices

## **5.3 Grading Governance and Transparency**

### **Ethical Focus:**

- Uniform grading standards
- Timely submission
- Audit readiness

### **Policy Advice Issued:**

- Strengthened enforcement through academic leadership
- Standard rubric adoption
- Submission controls

## **6. Institutional Integrity and Inclusivity**

### **6.1 Commencement Accessibility Case**

A student with mobility limitations was supported through adjustments at graduation.

### **Ethical Focus:**

- Dignity
- Equal participation
- Accessibility

### **Policy Committee Advice:**

The Committee recommended event-level inclusion planning and proactive accessibility measures for future ceremonies.

## **7. Institutional Impact**

During AY 2024–2025, the Committee contributed to:

- Consistent handling of integrity cases
- Ethical crisis governance

- Policy modernization
- Digital conduct regulation
- Inclusive practice standards
- Institutional accountability

## **8. Recommendations for AY 2025–2026**

The Committee recommends:

- Institutionalization of digital ethics awareness programs
- Monitoring implementation of accommodation policies
- Continued oversight of grading consistency
- Development of crisis ethics protocol
- Trend analysis of misconduct cases





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