Chapter 5
The University System as a Mere Organized Conflict Environment

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ABSTRACT

The university system is an organized anarchy. It is a system that brings different components from different dimensions with different focus sometimes conflicting one another in one place, in order to achieve a particular goal. This paper examines the university as a system that comprises different faculties, departments and units managing different disciplines and courses/subjects. Chaos and complexity nature of university was examined and results show that each faculty and department is taking a different direction without caring about others, and in the same faculty there are different departments handling different courses. And lecturers are using different methods in the conduct of their lessons and researches, and all these struggles are made towards achieving university objectives. The challenges faced by university system and possible solutions to overcome those challenges were discussed.

INTRODUCTION

A university is a Latin word "Universitas" meaning, "a whole" it is an institution of higher or tertiary education and research, which grants academic degrees in a variety of subjects and provides both undergraduate and postgraduate educations.

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(Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia). Universities are pluralistic institutions with multiple, ambiguous and conflicting goals. They are professional institutions that are primarily run by the professionals (i.e. the academics) often in its own interests rather than those of the clients and they are collegial institutions which are mainly headed vice-chancellors/Rectors. University mandate to conduct original research requires resources, infrastructure, human capital, and a climate of inquiry protected by the principles of academic freedom. (Stelmach, 2012). The nature and character of the university as an academic organization entails the achievement and maintenance of a harmonious environment conducive for the working together of various groups of staffs and the management team for the attainment of preselected missions and objectives (Ndum & Stella, 2013).

The university system is an organized anarchy. It is a system that brought together different component with different functions in one unit to work together, as an entity. The structure of the university include decision making bodies, service departments and academic core. Under decision making bodies, there are different committees, different faculties and departments dealing with different disciplines and courses. For instance, faculty of education, faculty of law faculty of science and the faculty of engineering, under each faculty there are several departments handling different courses or disciplines. The focus of each faculty is different from that of others. Faculty of education is busy trying to ensure the production of professional teachers and educational administrators, while in the faculty of law is struggles to see that qualified and professional legal practitioners are produced, this is applicable to each of the faculties. Each department in the university there are different lecturers handling different courses and each has a different style of delivering his lecture and different style of conducting research, as there is no one best way of conducting lesson as well as research.

Likewise, the other complexity area of university system is students and lecturers do have different aims and objectives, for instance lecture is lecturing for pay while students' focus is on the knowledge they acquire and it claims that university is meant for students but they only have little or no say about the activities in the school. In the view of aforementioned series of chaos and complexity in the university system, this paper focuses on those chaos and complexity and possible recommendations that could be used to overcome possible challenges that may likely encountered by university management.

THE UNIVERSITY AS A SOCIAL SYSTEM

A social system is a bounded set of elements and activities that interact and constitute a Single social entity (Hoy & Miskel, 2008) a social system is a model of organiza-