Mentorship in Graduate Education

The American University in Cairo
The Context

- Founded in 1919; Located in Cairo - incorporated in Delaware
- Independent, private, not-for-profit university
- Accredited by the Middle States Association, USA, with individual national and international accreditation of different programs and schools.
- About 6,500 students, including 1,200 graduate students
- About 480 faculty members, with 45% international faculty
- Offers 53 master and 2 doctoral programs – English language for instruction and administration
Mentorship

Supervision

Advising
At AUC, we recognize...

- It is a complex form of pedagogy
- It is essential for a successful graduate studies experience
- It is a unique relationship
- It requires engagement of the supervisor and the supervisee
- Student anxiety in selecting a supervisor is not uncommon
- Challenges for faculty supervisors oftentimes not sufficiently recognized
Guiding Principles

• Mutually consensual

• Student-centered and adapted to student needs

• Pedagogical process focused on knowledge creation

• The student must be actively engaged and responsible for his/her/their progress and development
Main Elements

• **Agreement** - setting clear expectations for mutual responsibilities and details of the supervisory process (the methods and frequency of contact and responses; maintaining records of progress; and mutual commitment to the relevant university requirements and regulations, etc.)

• **Documentation of progress** (milestones accomplished; metrics on progress towards degree completion; addressing potential conflicts)

• **Mechanisms for addressing possible conflicts** (resolution at the lowest possible level; possible incremental escalation adherence to established university procedures and processes)
Main Elements

• Support to students
  (university-wide academic workshops)

• Support to faculty supervisors
  (engagement in self-reflective practices; maintaining a campus-wide discussion)

• Recognition of good supervision practices
  (guideline; award?)