Maximizing Procedures Covering Conduct of Examination in a Potential World Class University using Operational Research Technique

Agarana M.C., Owoloko E.A. and Iheme P.C.

Abstract—One of the good qualities of a world class university is their high standard examination procedures. This paper attempts to optimize the examination procedures in a potential world class university by minimizing the major variables: time, cost and human resources involved in the examination conduct. Covenant University, the best private university in Nigeria, is used as a case study. The examination procedures covering conduct of examination at Covenant University, were modelled as a linear programming with time, cost and human resources as our decision variables. The constraint, including the non-negativity constraint, were carefully formed. The standard form of the model is solved using Simplex method with the aid of a computer software - LIP Solver, which was used to evaluate the feasible solutions from the initial tableau. It was observed that some of the decision variables such as time to correct examination questions and address examination misconducts must be deemphasized, while decision variables such as time to admit students into the examination hall and time to verify students’ identity in order to admit them into the examination hall should be given priority in order to optimize the resources related to the examination conduct at Covenant University.

Index Terms—Linear Programming Model, Optimization, Procedures Covering Examination Conduct

I. INTRODUCTION

Optimization is usually used to select the best element based on a set of criteria from a selection of available alternatives. [4,7] It involves finding an alternative with the most cost effective or highest achievable performance under given constraints, by maximizing desired factors and minimizing undesired ones [3,5]. In comparison, maximization means trying to attain the highest or maximum result or outcome without regard to cost or expense [5,7]. Practice of optimization is restricted by the lack of full information, and the lack of time to evaluate what information is available [4]. In computer simulation (modeling) of business problems, optimization is achieved usually by using linear programming techniques of operations research[3]. Linear programming model is a planning technique which uses mathematical model in maximizing or minimizing appropriate measure to optimize the value of some objective after identifying some constraints [3,7]. Linear programming is a mathematical discipline, developed from the invention of the simplex method by G.B. Dantzig [1], in 1947. Historically, development in linear programming is driven by its applications in economics and management. A method he developed to solve the U.S. air force planning problem. The term linear programming was recommended by Dantzig by T.C. Koopmans in 1951 in place of what it was previously known as "programming in a linear structure". The aim of linear programming is to either minimize or maximize certain variables from a system putting into consideration some constraints, in order to generate the best possible output. [7] The goal of any Linear Programming algorithms is to find the optimum solution of a given problem. The problem is formulated by an objective function, which needs to be minimized or maximized under a set of limits and constraints. The basic requirements of an optimization problem, including linear programming, are the following: An objective function, which is made up of some scalar quantities that need to be minimized or maximized get the most suitable output. Secondly, a predictive model used to describe the behavior of the system. In an optimization problem they are called constraints and are sets of equations and inequalities. These constraints cover a feasible region that defines limits of performance for the system. Thirdly, Variables that are given in the predictive model must be adjusted to satisfy the constraints [5]. In this paper, the objective function is represented by the examination procedures and their contribution to a successful examination conduct at Covenant University [9]. The optimization problem therefore is that of minimization, with the aim of minimizing time, cost and manpower require for conduct of examination. Minimizing the objective function, therefore, leads to minimizing money involved in conducting examination in the university. Time is money, cost involves money and manpower involves money too.

II FORMULATION OF PROBLEMS

A. Decision Variables

Let $X_1$ represent the number of question papers produced.
Let $X_2$ represent the invigilators required for each examination.
Let $X_1$ represent possession of one of the authorized materials.
Let $X_2$ represent the time to assign duties to invigilators.
Let $X_3$ represent the time required for students to be served with the question papers.
Let $X_4$ represent the required time to admit students into the examination hall.
Let $X_5$ represent the require time to inspect students for possession of laptops and other multi-media.
Let $X_6$ represent the duration of stopping the examination after expiration of allowed time.
Let $X_7$ represent the number of extra answer booklet produced.
Let $X_{10}$ represent the time required to verify students’ identity.
Let $X_{11}$ represent number of examination officers/supervisors.
Let $X_{12}$ represent duration of time invigilators will stay in the hall after an examination.
Let $X_{13}$ represent the require time to cross check the attendance.
Let $X_{14}$ represent the duration of time required to control disturbances.
Let $X_{15}$ represent the required time to correct examination questions.
Let $X_{16}$ represent the number of answer booklets produced.
Let $X_{17}$ represent the required time to address cases of misconduct.
Let $X_{18}$ represent the required time to handle health issues.
Let $X_{19}$ represent the time the invigilators collect the answer booklets at the end of examination.
Let $X_{20}$ represent the time to collect examination materials and prepare the hall for the next examination.

B. Contributions ($C_j$)

The following are the contributions, obtained by using the weighted score concept:

$C_1=25$, $C_2=22$, $C_3=16$, $C_4=9$, $C_5=20$, $C_6=22$, $C_7=23$, $C_8=24$, $C_9=22$, $C_{10}=22$, $C_{11}=24$, $C_{12}=21$, $C_{13}=18$, $C_{14}=15$, $C_{15}=12$, $C_{16}=12$, $C_{17}=12$, $C_{18}=12$, $C_{19}=16$, $C_{20}=22$.

C. Resources per unit of a Decision Variable ($a_j$)

Let $a_{11}$ represent the cost of producing one question paper for one examination.
Let $a_{12}$ represent the cost of producing question paper for one examination.
Let $a_{21}$ represent amount paid to an invigilator per course (nonacademic).
Let $a_{22}$ represent amount paid to an invigilator for all exam (nonacademic).
Let $a_{31}$ represent the time to check one student for authorized materials.
Let $a_{32}$ represent the time to check one student for authorized materials throughout the examination.
Let $a_{41}$ represent the time to assign duty to one invigilator.
Let $a_{42}$ represent the time to assign duty to one invigilator throughout the examination.
Let $a_{51}$ represent the time to place a question paper to be on a student’s desk.
Let $a_{52}$ represent the time to place a question paper to be on a student’s desk throughout the examination.
Let $a_{61}$ represent the required time to admit one student into the examination hall.
Let $a_{62}$ represent the required time to admit one student into the examination hall throughout the examination.
Let $a_{71}$ represent the required time to collect examination materials and prepare the hall for the next examination.
Let $a_{72}$ represent the required time to collect examination materials throughout the examination.
Let $a_{81}$ represent the required time to correct examination questions.
Let $a_{82}$ represent the cost of answer booklet produced for one examination.
Let $a_{91}$ represent the cost of answer booklet produced throughout the examination.
Let $a_{92}$ represent the required time to verify one students’ identity.
Let $a_{101}$ represent the time required to verify one students’ identity throughout the examination.
Let $a_{102}$ represent the required time to verify one students’ identity throughout the examination.
Let $a_{11}$ represent cost of refreshment for one examination officer.
Let $a_{12}$ represent duration of time invigilators will stay in the hall for one course.
Let $a_{13}$ represent required time to verify one student name on the attendance sheet.
Let $a_{14}$ represent the required time to report disturbances for each examination.
Let $a_{15}$ represent the required time to control disturbances throughout the examination.
Let $a_{16}$ represent the required time to correct one examination question.
Let $a_{17}$ represent the required time to correct one examination question throughout the examination.
Let $a_{18}$ represent the cost of supplementary paper produced for one course.
Let $a_{19}$ represent the required time for one student to fill a misconduct form.
Let $a_{20}$ represent the required time for one student to fill a misconduct form throughout the examination.
Let $a_{21}$ represent the required time to handle health issues for each examination.
Let $a_{22}$ represent the required time to handle health issues throughout the examination.
Let $a_{23}$ represent time an invigilator announces the end of exam for one course.
Let $a_{24}$ represent time an invigilator announces the end of exam throughout the examination.
Let $a_{25}$ represent the time required to prepare the hall for the next paper.
Let $a_{26}$ represent the time required to prepare the hall for next paper throughout the examination.

D. Available Resources ($b_i$)

Let $b_1$ represent the cost of producing one question paper.
Let $b_{1.0}$ represent the cost of producing question paper for one examination.
Let $b_2$ represent amount paid to an invigilator per course (nonacademic).
Let $b_{2.0}$ represent amount paid to an invigilator for all examination (nonacademic).
Let $b_3$ represent the time to check one student for authorized materials
Let $b_3.0$ represent the time to check one student for authorized materials throughout
Let $b_4$ represent the time to assign duty to one invigilator
Let $b_4.0$ represent the time to assign duty to one invigilator throughout
Let $b_5$ represent the time to place a question paper to be on a student’s desk.
Let $b_5.0$ represent the time to place a question paper to be on a student’s desk.
Let $b_6$ represent the available time to admit one student into the examination hall.
Let $b_6.0$ represent the available time to admit one student into the examination hall.
Let $b_7$ represent the available time inspect one student for possession of laptops and
Let $b_7.0$ represent the available time inspect one student for possession of laptops and
Let $b_8$ represent the duration of one course examination.
Let $b_9$ represent the cost of answer booklet produced for one examination.
Let $b_9.0$ represent the cost of answer booklet produced throughout the examination.
Let $b_{10}$ represent the time available to verify one student’s identity.
Let $b_{10.0}$ represent the time available to verify one students’ identity throughout
Let $b_{11}$ represent cost of refreshment for one examination officer.
Let $b_{12}$ represent duration of time invigilators will stay in the hall for one course.
Let $b_{13}$ represent available time to verify one student name on the attendance sheet.
Let $b_{13.0}$ represent available time to verify one student name on the attendance sheet.
Let $b_{14}$ represent the available time to report disturbances for each examination.
Let $b_{14.0}$ represent the available time to control disturbances throughout
Let $b_{15}$ represent the available time to correct one examination question.
Let $b_{15.0}$ represent the available time to correct one examination question throughout
Let $b_{16}$ represent the cost of one supplementary paper produced.
Let $b_{16.0}$ represent the cost of supplementary paper produced for one course.
Let $b_{17}$ represent the available time for one student to fill a misconduct form.
Let $b_{17.0}$ represent the available for one student time to fill a misconduct form.
Let $b_{18}$ represent the available time to handle health issues for each examination.
Let $b_{18.0}$ represent the available time to handle health issues throughout
Let $b_{19}$ represent the available time an invigilator announces the end of exam for one course.
Let $b_{19.0}$ represent time an invigilator announces the end of exam throughout
Let $b_{20}$ represent the time available to prepare the hall for the next paper.

Let $b_{20.0}$ represent the time available to prepare the hall for the next paper throughout

### E. Examination procedures resources and utilization

For this study, we used a typical unit, Management information system (MIS), in the university as a case study. Also, the average number of students, gotten by taking the average of the total number of students for all the levels was used for computation. From the data gathered and subsequent computations, the following were some of the values obtained:

- $b_{1}=650$, $b_{1.0}=25000$, $b_{2}=15000$, $b_{2.0}=30000$, $b_{3}=300$, $b_{3.0}=3600$, $b_{4}=300$, $b_{4.0}=3600$, $b_{5}=300$, $b_{5.0}=3600$, $b_{6}=300$, $b_{6.0}=3600$, $b_{7}=300$, $b_{7.0}=3600$, $b_{8}=345600$, $b_{9}=2800$, $b_{9.0}=122700$, $b_{10}=300$, $b_{10.0}=3600$, $b_{11}=2500$, $b_{12}=345600$, $b_{13}=1800$, $b_{13.0}=21600$, $b_{14}=120$, $b_{14.0}=15=1800$, $b_{15}=1800$, $b_{15.0}=21600$, $b_{16}=400$, $b_{16.0}=17600$, $b_{17}=420$ seconds, $b_{17.0}=5040$ seconds, $b_{18}=180$ seconds, $b_{18.0}=21600$ seconds.

- $a_{1}=6$ naira, $a_{2}=28$, $a_{16}=3.46$, $a_{2}=15000$, $a_{11}=500$, $a_{3}=30$, $a_{4}=5$, $a_{7}=15$, $a_{10}=10$, $a_{5}=5000$, $a_{6}=60$, $a_{5}=5$, $a_{13}=18$, $a_{15}=300$, $a_{12}=10800$, $a_{14}=1800$, $a_{17}=1800$, $a_{18}=1800$, $a_{19}=900$, $a_{20}=1800$

### F. Budget for production of examination papers

The budget for production of examination papers is as follows:

- Question paper = 144000 naira
- Answer booklet = 250000 naira
- Supplementary sheet = 27680 naira
- Total budget for one course = 421,680
- Total budget for production of paper = 4,500,000

### G. Objective Function

Minimize $Z = \sum_{j=1}^{20} C_j X_j$

Minimize $Z = C_1 X_1 + C_2 X_2 + C_3 X_3 + C_4 X_4 + C_5 X_5 + C_6 X_6 + C_7 X_7 + C_8 X_8 + C_9 X_9 + C_{10} X_{10} + C_{11} X_{11} + C_{12} X_{12} + C_{13} X_{13} + C_{14} X_{14} + C_{15} X_{15} + C_{16} X_{16} + C_{17} X_{17} + C_{18} X_{18} + C_{19} X_{19} + C_{20} X_{20}$

Substituting values of the contributions into the above objective function we have:

Minimize $Z= 25X_1 + 22X_2 + 16X_3 + 9X_4 + 20X_5 + 22X_6 + 23X_7 + 24X_8 + 22X_9 + 22X_{10} + 24X_{11} + 21X_{12} + 18X_{13} + 15X_{14} + 12X_{15} + 12X_{16} + 12X_{17} + 12X_{18} + 16X_{19} + 22X_{20}$

### H. Constraints

- $a_1X_1 + a_2X_2 + a_3X_3 \leq b_1 + b_2 + b_3$
- $a_4X_4 + a_5X_5 + a_6X_6 \leq b_4 + b_5 + b_6$
- $a_7X_7 + a_8X_8 + a_9X_9 \leq b_7 + b_8 + b_9$
- $a_{10}X_{10} + a_{11}X_{11} \leq b_{10} + b_{11}$
- $a_{12}X_{12} + a_{13}X_{13} \leq b_{12} + b_{13}$
- $a_{14}X_{14} + a_{15}X_{15} + a_{16}X_{16} + a_{17}X_{17} + a_{18}X_{18} \leq b_{14} + b_{15} + b_{16} + b_{17} + b_{18} + b_{19} + b_{20}$
- $a_{20}X_{20} + a_{21}X_{21} + a_{22}X_{22} + a_{23}X_{23} + a_{24}X_{24} + a_{25}X_{25} + a_{26}X_{26} + a_{27}X_{27} + a_{28}X_{28} + a_{29}X_{29} + a_{30}X_{30} \leq b_{20} + b_{21} + b_{22} + b_{23} + b_{24} + b_{25} + b_{26} + b_{27} + b_{28} + b_{29} + b_{30}$

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II. PROBLEM SOLUTION

A. Standardized model

Minimize \( Z = 25X_1 + 22X_2 + 16X_3 + 9X_4 + 20X_5 + 22X_6 + 23X_7 + 24X_8 + 22X_9 + 22X_{10} + 24X_{11} + 21X_{12} + 18X_{13} + 15X_{14} + 12X_{15} + 12X_{16} + 12X_{17} + 12X_{18} + 16X_{19} + 22X_{20} \)

Subject to

\[
\begin{align*}
6.08X_1 + 28X_9 + 3.6X_{16} &\leq 4000 \\
620.16X_1 + 2856X_9 + 367.2X_{16} &\leq 165300 \\
750X_2 + 500X_{11} &\leq 7500 \\
10800X_8 + 10800X_{12} + S_4 &\leq 345600 \\
2.94X_3 + 2.94X_4 + 2.94X_5 + 2.94X_6 + 2.94X_7 + 2.94X_{10} &+ S_5 = 1800 \\
35.28X_3 + 35.28X_4 + 35.28X_5 + 35.28X_6 + 35.28X_7 + 35.28X_{10} &+ S_6 = 21600 \\
17.65X_{13} + 300X_{15} &+ S_7 = 1800 \\
211.8X_{13} + 3600X_{15} + S_8 &\leq 21600 \\
120X_{14} + 5040X_{17} + 2160X_{18} + S_{10} &\leq 345600 \\
180X_{16} + 1800X_{20} + S_{11} &\leq 10800 \\
2160X_{19} + 21600X_{20} + S_{12} &\leq 345600 \\
6.08X_1 + S_{13} &\leq 625 \\
28X_9 + S_{14} &\leq 2900 \\
3.6X_{16} + S_{15} &\leq 370 \\
750X_2 + S_{16} &\leq 7500 \\
500X_{11} + S_{17} &\leq 14500 \\
15000X_2 + 500X_{11} + S_{18} &\leq 74500 \\
15000X_2 + S_{19} &\leq 150000 \\
2.94X_3 + S_{20} &\leq 352.8 \\
2.94X_4 + S_{21} &\leq 352.8 \\
2.9X_5 + S_{22} &\leq 352.8 \\
2.94X_6 + S_{23} &\leq 352.8 \\
2.94X_7 + S_{24} &\leq 352.8 \\
2.94X_{10} + S_{25} &\leq 352.8 \\
17.65X_{13} + S_{26} &\leq 1800 \\
300X_{13} + S_{27} &\leq 1800 \\
211.8X_{13} + S_{28} &\leq 21600 \\
3600X_{15} + S_{29} &\leq 21600 \\
x_i \geq 0 \text{ (where } i = 1, 2, 3, \ldots, 20) \\
\text{where } S_i (i = 1, 2, 3, \ldots, 29) \text{ are the slack variables.}
\end{align*}
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### Table 1. Initial Simplex Tableau for the problem

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IMECS 2016, March 16 - 18, 2016, Hong Kong
IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After solving the above initial tableau with a computer software "LINDO", the following values of the decision variables X1,...,X20, were obtained:

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<th>VALUE</th>
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<td>60.000000</td>
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From the above values we can deduce the following: Firstly, substituting these values into the objective function gave us 22480.87, which implies the optimal value. This suggests the minimum units of time, cost and manpower that should be involved in the examination conduct procedures in order to achieve the optimal result. Specifically, about 103 question papers should be produced, at most 4 invigilators should be used for each paper, and all the students should be in possession of the authorized materials for the examination. It should not take more than 10.6 seconds to assign duties to each invigilator, and not more than 122 seconds should be spent to serve all the students with question papers. Students should be admitted into the examination hall within 120 seconds. Also 120 seconds should be used to check for unauthorized material such as laptops, tablets, phones and so on that might be in possession of the students. Every student should stop written within 32 seconds after expiration of an examination, and about 22 answer booklets should be produced. 120 seconds should be used to check students' identity. Not more than 29 examination officers/supervisors should be in charge of an examination. To cross check the attendance should not take more than 102 seconds. Maximum of 90 seconds should be used all through the examination to control disturbance during the examination. Just like question papers, 103 answer booklets should be produced for an examination. The invigilators should spend more than one minute to collect the answer booklets at the end of an examination. However, there might be no need to prepare the hall for next paper, as the same hall can be used for the next paper immediately. There should not be any special time set aside to handle health issues, as health problems rarely occur during the examinations, and when they occur, they can handled without disturbing the flow of an examination. Cases of misconduct can be handled without affecting the time allotted for an examination. Examination questions should be looked through by the course lecturer before the examination papers get to the examination hall. This will avoid time wasting in the examination hall. Invigilators are expected to leave the examination hall immediately after collecting the answer booklets from the students. It also be deduced from the results that in order to optimize the time for an examination, there should not be any special time assigned for the following activities; X12, X15, X17, X18, X20, during the examination period. Such activities can either be carried out simultaneously with other specific activities or carried out some other time outside the examination period.

V. CONCLUSION

Interest was on making best use of the three major resources namely: Time, Cost and Manpower, needed for conducting examination in order to optimize the procedures covering the conduct of examination in Covenant University. The analysis is carried out using mathematical programming approach. The peculiar situation considered was modeled as a linear programming problem with the sole objective of minimizing the objective function. The objective function is made up of the resources mentioned above resulting in maximizing the procedures considered. Clearly, almost the exact amount of the resources, time, cost and manpower, needed should be used if the procedures covering the conduct of examination in Covenant University is to be optimized.

REFERENCES