



AUA

American University of Armenia



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New Faculty Orientation

January 14, 2020

Mission Statement

The American University of Armenia aims to have an impact on students and the community as a center of academic excellence, innovation, inquiry and diversity that contributes to the further development and advancement of Armenia, the region and the world through teaching and scholarship, fostering creativity, integrity and community service.

President's Three Transformative Priorities

Universities have assumed a very different role in the 21st century – having an impact on society. This is especially true in countries like Armenia, where academic and workforce training will not develop the human capital needed to address political, economic and social problems. In order to provide better service to Armenian society, the AUA must enhance and develop its capacities in teaching, research, and outreach in order to maximize its impact as an agent of transformation and universalistic problem solving.

Centers of Excellence

A center of excellence is constructed to showcase a deep understanding of a domain through collaboration among scholars, students, and members of the public sphere within the framework of a university. Its mission is to incubate expertise among faculty and researchers with the aim of focusing on a common problem. Universities benefit when centers of excellence help them heighten their brand, focus their efforts, mitigate the costs and risks associated with institutional innovation and experimentation, and enhance institutional flexibility.

Reality Labs

Students and scholars have traditionally learned and worked within the confines and security of academia. Though universities have successfully expanded the classroom through service learning projects, internships, and other experiential opportunities, students are commonly asked to reflect on their external experiences within that academic context. Reality labs provide a greater level of engagement by giving students, faculty and researchers the opportunity to test innovative ideas in the real world – the world as laboratory; teaching and scholarship directly connect the university to the communities they serve.

Internationalization

Globalization brings new opportunities and challenges for students and academics seeking to prosper in and contribute to an increasingly interdependent world. Given global pressures, how can AUA strategically maximize its position as a partner institution within the global higher education landscape? This agenda includes: the pursuit of international grant opportunities; the judicious identification of international partners for mobilities, capacity-building projects, and research collaborations; and the upscaling of institutional capacity.

Institutional Strategic Plan

1. To offer a breadth and diversity of internationally competitive and quality academic programs whose student learning outcomes are aligned to global and Armenian market needs
2. To develop and recognize a community of scholars
3. To recruit, enroll and retain highly qualified and diverse students who have the potential to succeed at AUA
4. To establish and strengthen the foundational core faculty
5. To recruit and retain qualified staff
6. To foster a collegiate environment that offers services and programming promoting student engagement and academic success
7. To ensure state-of-the-art facilities and innovative technologies

Institutional Strategic Plan

8. To achieve fiscal sustainability
9. To effectively promote the University's accomplishments and impact
10. To provide educational and developmental programs in the community broadening the impact of the University
11. To maintain and develop effective alumni relations
12. To ensure that AUA's administrative structure and policies facilitate learning and research/scholarship, foster quality improvement and support the University's organization and governance

Faculty Participation

Program, College and Institutional Levels

- Participation in program assessment and data analysis to ensure evidence-based decision making - closing the loop for quality assurance
- Participation on committees, workgroups, and advisory groups to ensure an inclusive approach to assessment and the formation of policies and procedures

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