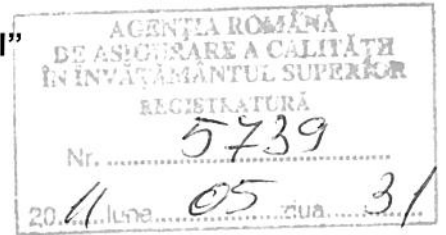


**EXTERNAL EVALUATOR'S REPORT
FOR ARACIS OF "VASILE ALECSANDRI"
UNIVERSITY OF BACAU, 2011**



Introduction

I was appointed as a Foreign External Evaluator for the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) and was consequently invited to join the evaluation team for the institutional re-accreditation process of "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacau (UVAB). This was my fifth participation in an evaluation procedure but the first at a university maintained by the state. The audit took place between Wednesday 11 May and Friday 13 May 2011.

The evaluation team consisted of the following members, in addition to myself:

Prof. univ. dr. AGACHI Paul Serban – Mission Director

Prof. univ. dr. BULGARU Marius – Coordinator of the Experts Evaluator Team

ISPAS Daniela Mihaela – Scientific Secretary

GAMAN Alexandra – Student Evaluator

PRISACARIU Anca – Student Evaluator

Prof. univ. dr. AIRINEI Dinu – Advisory Commission Expert

Prof. univ. dr. TURLEA Eugen – Institutional Commission Expert

Prof. univ. dr. LUPULESCU Nouras – Program Expert

Prof. univ. dr. FRANGA Liviu – Program Expert

Prof. univ. dr. AVRAM Marioara – Program Expert

Prof. univ. dr. VOICU Gheorghe – Program Expert

Prof. univ. dr. BALINT Lorand – Program Expert

The evaluation process began on Wednesday the 11th of May at 9 a.m. in the Aula "Vasile Alecsandri". The rector of UVAB welcomed the evaluation team then the Rector talked about the history of the university and its present situation. Then Prof. univ. dr. Marius Bulgaru told the introductory statements of the mission and he also

The Pre- and In-service Teacher Training Department has an important role on the field of education activity.

The University has several BA and MA programs. There are 22 accredited BA/BSc program and 17 BA/BSc programs that have provisional authorizations. There are also 31 accredited MA/MSc programs. All the study programs of UVAB are accredited or have provisional authorizations. The duration of the BA programs are six or eight semesters with a total of 180-240 ECTS credit points. The duration of the Master programs are three or four semesters with a total of 90-120 ECTS credit points.

The University has 6857 enrolled students. There are 2809 students whose studies are financed by the state, the others are paying fees for their studies.

The scientific potential and quality of human resources at "VASILE ALECSANDRI" University of Bacau is on a good level.

Managerial Structure

The management of the university is organised in accordance with its legal obligations, which are stated in the university's charter. In terms of structure, the university is led by a Rector, who is supported by three Vice-Rectors. The Rector's duties include the strategic leadership of the university and representing the university at judicial and public bodies.

The Senate is the main decision making body of the university which consists of a mixture of appointed and elected representatives. There are 30 persons in the Senate at UVAB (30 teaching staff, 10 students and other University staff). Its activity is structured into 4 councils, each council being coordinated by a vice-rector. Specialized commissions are organized within the framework of each council.

The university is divided into five faculties, which are further subdivided into chairs. Each faculty is led by a Dean and also has a professorial council.

There are six departments at UVAB. Some of them have educational and scientific purposes the others have important tasks in management and coordination.

The functional organizations of UVAB are also well-structured and provide various services for the students and the staff.

Facilities

UVAB has two Campuses which are situated very close to each other, about 5 minutes' walk. In the past few years UVAB has made important progress concerning the material resources and investments.

UVAB owns the buildings and premises where it carries out its activity. UVAB possesses functional educational venues of 15,342.6 square meters, can provide accommodation for 1,127 persons. UVAB has projects of buildings and spaces, that were continued or were begun in 2008 on an area of 18.281,5 m (educational spaces, sports venue, library, new hostel, cafeteria). The number of seats in the central library is 470 and the number of computers is 30. In the university canteen, there are 4 dining halls where 400 students can have their meals simultaneously.

The informatics system of UVAB consists of over 700 computers connected to the Internet to which we may add the computers used in laboratories and for projects.

The buildings of the university are interconnected with an optic fiber network. The students in the 3 hostels have free access to the internet.

The libraries of UVAB own more than 230000 volumes in the fields of mathematics, physics, chemistry, history, law, economics, geography, psychology, literature etc. Besides the Central Library and the ones of each faculty, there are libraries in each department, which provide a number of publications for the disciplines from the curricula for different study programs (BA/BSc, MA/MSc, PhD). Reading rooms exist at each faculty, for each department (totalling almost 700 seats) ensuring the access to reading and study of over 10% of the students.

The languages of the books found in the collections at UVAB are in Romanian (over 200000) but there are volumes in English (around 17000), in French (around 11000) in German (around 1000) and in other languages.

For 2010, there were 120 subscriptions to Romanian periodicals. The number of foreign periodicals is 67.

UVAB ensures the printing of the lecture notes, textbooks and of the necessary documents for the implementation of the curricula at the Printing and Publishing Service (The Alma Mater Publishing House).

by the students depending on the academic achievement. It seemed that the Students Union is very active at UVAB.

There are plenty of Erasmus Mobility agreements at UVAB. (It is strange that UVAB has not got ERASMUS agreement with universities from UK as they have different programs in English.) The number of the students participating in Erasmus Program is very few for the size of the university and the number of agreements. There were only 52 (43/9 ERASMUS Student Mobility for Studies/ERASMUS Student Mobility for Placements) outgoing and 11 incoming students in the last academic year.

Comment: It is recommended to increase the number of students taking part in mobility activities especially doing a traineeship abroad. It will help the students to gain some practical experience abroad and it is also suits to EU recommendations.

At the meeting with employers, they seemed very satisfied with those students who graduated from UVAB although they brought up the lack of students practical knowledge. Most of the employers were representatives of different fields from industry (e.g. Chemical, Aircraft production, Mechanical engineering etc.) but there were representatives of public sector too (e.g. Governmental Organizations, Municipalities etc.)

They also mentioned that they have good cooperation with UVAB for the student's practice.

Research

Research activity within the university is coordinated by a vice-rector, monitored and supported by a specific structure at the university level – the Scientific Research Department. The research activity is performed within research centres and groups. All the research centres are accredited by internal procedures, part of which being evaluated and accredited as such by CNCSIS.

The results of the scientific activities are valorized by means of publications in dedicated journals or publishing houses agreed by CNCSIS, as it can be found in the

At the level of each faculty there are commissions for quality evaluation and commissions for quality assurance. These commissions role is monitoring the implementation of the quality criteria for the study programs within faculties.

In order to ensure the implementation of the stipulated objectives and missions, UVAB implemented and certified an Integrated Management System – (Quality, Environment, Health and Occupational Safety, Social Responsibility), in compliance with the standards: IWA 2:2009, ISO 9001:2008, ISO 14001:2005 and SR OHSAS18001:2008, SA 8000:2008.

Comment: In my opinion the structure and the procedures of quality assurance at UVAB are well organized. There is also *internal and external control of quality assurance*.

I am happy to declare my full and complete confidence in the quality assurance processes at UVAB, as well as the quality of its programs.

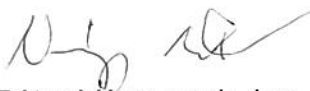
Conclusion

I recommend the institutional reaccreditation of "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacau based on what I have experienced; seen, read and heard. I hope that some of the comments which I made will help the University Management in the process of continual improvement.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to the Rector, Vice Rectors, Deans and all the University staff for the pleasant atmosphere and the support during my stay in Bacau. Also much gratitude to my colleagues from the evaluation team for the professional, open and gentle way in which the audit was conducted.

At least but not last special thanks to ARACIS for giving me the opportunity to participate in this evaluation process in Romania.

Pécs, 24-05-2011


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