FOR ARACIS OF

"ALMA MATER" UNIVERSITY OF SIBIU

2015



Introduction

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From 9.30 a.m. the evaluation team discussed the most important aspects that should be considered during the audit. This was followed by a tour at the university to see the infrastructure of the institution.

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. the group of experts was working on different aspects of the evaluation. In my role as Foreign Expert Evaluator, I was responsible for establishing an overview of the whole institution and was allowed to move freely, talking to members of staff and students of FUAMS-UAMS. In the afternoon I could talk to the person who is responsible for the international relations. At 5 p.m. we had an appointment with a group of 130 undergraduate students and at 6 p.m. there was a one hour meeting with a group of 14 former students of FUAMS-UAMS. At 7 p.m. we had a one hour long meeting with a group of about 18 graduates' employers.

The team continued the evaluation process on Thursday 2nd April starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 7 p.m. In the morning I visited the office of the Students' association and the ALUMNI Graduates' of FUAMS-UAMS.

The evaluation process was finished on Friday 3rd April when the team of experts prepared the final report. The evaluation process was conducted in open and collegial manner.

General Statements

FUAMS-UAMS in Sibiu is a private higher education institution with **provisional functioning authorization**, having graduates for the fundamental field of social sciences. It was established in 2005.

The didactic structure of FUAMS-UAMS is very simple as it has two faculties, namely the Faculty of Economics, Social and Administrative Sciences in Sibiu and the Faculty of Economic, Juridical and Social Sciences in Hunedoara offering 4 accredited programmes (Management; Public Administration; Economy of Trade, Tourism and Quality Management; Pedagogy of Preschool and Primary School) and 3 programmes were authorized to function provisionally (Psychology; Law; Economy of Trade, Tourism, Services and Quality Management) of bachelor degree.

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In the academic year 2014-2015 FUAMS-UAMS has 694 enrolled students.

Although there were a high staff turnover at FUAMS-UAMS the scientific potential

and quality of human resources seems to be on a good level.

Managerial Structure

The management of FUAMS-UAMS seems to be organised in accordance with the legal obligations and with the provisions of the university's charter.

The management is assured by the following managerial bodies: the Senate and the Board of Administration (university level), the Board of the Faculties and the Department Board (departmental level), accompanied by other structures (e.g. commissions, committees etc.) which support the management at the level of FUAMS-UAMS.

The Board of Administration is the supreme forum of administrative, financial and economic management of FUAMS-UAMS, and the Senate is the superior management forum of the whole teaching and research activities.

Although FUAMS-UAMS has computerized internet and intranet systems, what I experienced during my stay, it seems that the INTRANET system is unexploited.

Comment: It is unusual (in the business too) that in linked organizations (FUAMS-UAMS) the same person has two main position (the president of the foundation and rector of the university) in the leadership at the same time, though I suppose it cannot be against legal regulation. It is also an unfortunate situation if somebody is member of the leadership and also member of so many management supporting bodies (commissions, committees etc.) at FUAMS-UAMS at the same time (annex 37).

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Teaching Staff

There was a huge reduction in the number of the teaching staff in connection with the decrease of the number of students. About two third of the academic staff was sent off. The number of academic staff at FUAMS-UAMS in the academic year 2014/2015 is 45. Most of the academic staff members at FUAMS-UAMS are PhD holders (86.66%) who are employed full-time and 15 (33,3%) of them are professors and associate professors. During the academic year 2014-2015 the ratio between teachers and students is 15.42% (694 students and 45 teachers).

The structure of the teaching staff seems to be balanced; the university might persuade the experienced lectures to become associate professors and the experienced associate professors to become professors in order to maintain the academic quality.

Comment: The academic staff quality seems to be on good level, at the moment the quantity is sufficient compared to number of students. The ratio of teaching staff to students is acceptable but it could be improved.

<u>Facilities</u>

FUAMS-UAMS has two Campuses in Sibiu which are situated very close to each other, about 5 minutes' walk. I did not have the time to visit the campus of FUAMS-UAMS in Hunedoara but I experienced that the material infrastructure at the campuses in Sibiu is on a very different level. Not all the educational spaces fulfil every requirement of the European standards. Except of the specialized labs (informatics, foreign languages) I didn't see any other laboratories which contained modern equipment during my visit. Those laboratories need new and modern equipment too. Also quite a number of PCs are out of date and many of them are operated by Windows XP software. (The support and updates for Windows XP has expired!)



There are huge differences ergonomically among the furniture used by the students. Some of them are unsuitable for study purposes.

I read in the evaluation report that FUAMS-UAMS used to have faculty in Bacau I was informed also that there are still some teaching activity in Medias although it has not been mentioned in the self-assessment report.

Regarding the accommodation, FUAMS-UAMS has not students' hostel but proper leased spaces for the students (contract presented in annex). It is very praiseworthy that FUAMS-UAMS has its own outdoor sport field on campus.

The library of FUAMS-UAMS has a total of 31736 volumes and 7219 titles. There is little foreign literature in the library.

Disabled people would have some difficulties if they wanted to move in the buildings of FUAMS-UAMS.

Comment: It is important that the university continues to invest in its physical infrastructure when the funds allow.

Students

Besides the organized appointments I also had the chance to visit an English language course for the second year students and could talk with them. (I was surprised that the teacher gave quite a few times instructions to the students also in Romanian during the lesson.) One of the most important reasons of their selection among higher educational institutions was that they could study also in the afternoons and evenings at FUAMS-UAMS and the fees are very reasonable. I also had a meeting with president of the Students' Association. They have started their activity recently. He informed me that an ALUMNI Graduates' Association had started functioning at FUAMS-UAMS.

At the appointment with the students they seemed to be very loyal to FUAMS-UAMS. It was mentioned that they liked the modular method in education very much at

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FUAMS-UAMS. They like the flexibility in the time-table that some lectures which were held in the morning are repeated in the afternoon or evening.

The undergraduate students at the appointment were fairly active. They were pleased with the education and the circumstances. It was remarked that there was no huge differences between FUAMS-UAMS and the state universities in Sibiu. They mentioned that unfortunately society's recognition of a degree issued by a private university is much lower but they recommend FUAMS-UAMS to their friends without doubts. They also liked the module-system in education at FUAMS-UAMS.

There are only a few bilateral international agreements with different Universities but I was surprised that there is no Erasmus contract. (I was told that FUAMS-UAMS was not allowed taking part in Erasmus Programme because they have only a provisional functioning authorization.) The numbers of students and teachers participating in international programs are few.

Comment: It is recommended to enter into different European Higher Education Programmes (CEEPUS, ERASMUS etc.) when FUAMS-UAMS would have the possibility and increase the number of academic staff and students taking part in mobility activities. It will help them to gain some experience abroad and it is also suits to the EU recommendations which inspire the students to study one semester abroad.

At the meeting with employers there were representatives both of the private and public sector, even the prefect and the vice-mayor of Sibiu were present.

They expressed that all the higher education institutes are needed in Sibiu as the city and also the region is continuously developing. In their opinion competition among universities is useful for the quality of higher education. They seemed to be very satisfied with those students who graduated from FUAMS-UAMS.

Research

Research activity within the university is coordinated by the Senate and supervised by the Scientific Council through the Department of Research and Development. The

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scientific research activities performed within the 4 departments: the Business Management Research Centre, the Science of Communication and Information Technology Research Centre, the Research Centre in the field of Juridical and Administrative Sciences, the Research Centre in the field of pedagogy and psychology. (Unfortunately I could not notice the material infrastructure of the mentioned research departments.)

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Research activity at FUAMS-UAMS is continuously monitored and evaluated annually.

Comment: I would encourage FUAMS-UAMS to strengthen its collaborative links also to the business sector. It is necessary that FUAMS-UAMS should intensify the efforts to increase the number of research agreements.

Quality Management

FUAMS-UAMS develops and improves its own system of assuring the quality of the educational and research activity. In my opinion the quality management at FUAMS-UAMS is formally over structured and overregulated.

The procedures seem to be very formal: e.g. I experienced that nearly all the evaluation sheets were filled in the same way at the evaluation of academic staff by the students.

Comment: In my opinion the quality management at FUAMS-UAMS is very formal.

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Conclusion

FUAMS-UAMS is in a very difficult situation because external factors are very unpredictable e. g. demographic problems (number of students), changing economic environment (worldwide economic crisis), legal regulation is still in transition etc.

My report is based on what I have experienced; seen, read and heard. I hope that some of the comments which I made will help the FUAMS-UAMS management in the process of continual improvement.

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

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Pécs, 16-04-2015

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Associate Professor

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ACENTIA ROMÂNĂ
GE SICENARE A CALITĂȚII
ÎN ÎNVĂȚĂMĂNTUL SUPERIOR
TEGRIȚATITRĂ
3325
Mario O.S. Zine 44

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