

Responsibility and Georgian University in the reform process

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Annotation

1. University educational goal.

The aim of the university must be the development of research in fundamental sciences. Introduction of modern principles of lifelong education; the introduction of effective education courses, that will be orientated on the labor market.

It is important to draw skilled academic and administrative staff in order to fulfill the above mentioned goals; to create attractive atmosphere for students for study, research and self-development; to establish university communications with other Universities in Georgia and abroad; introduction of short-term professional refresher courses.

2. University structure.

Georgian law of higher education mainly adjusts university structure, but forming of effective machinery demands certain experience. There must be as many departments in the university as is necessary at the given time to support study and research processes properly. The existence of training centers that help to develop limited specialties, is possible at the departments. According to university possibilities, summer school planning will play an important part in students improving.

3. Planning of educational process.

The educational process is planned in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). It means that to get a bachelor's degree one must get 240 credits; 120 for a master's degree; and 180 for a Ph.D. degree. One credit equals 25 hours. Approximately a quarter of the hours belong to lecture hours; the rest is distributed to students' independent work and individual work with instructors.

4. Educational Process.

In the first term of the first year all admitted students learn the same program with the subjects: "Introduction to modern thinking," "Writing," "Information Technologies," and "English." The 1st and the 2nd subjects will continue one term, while the 3rd and the 4th subjects will continue two terms. A student will not get a bachelor's degree without certificates in English and Informational Technologies. The demand of modern scientific atmosphere is to place these two subjects as an obligatory clause.

5. Educational Programs.

a) Bachelor's Degree. Students choose major and minor specialties after 3 terms of study. They must get 120 credits in major specialty, minimum 60 in minor specialty; the rest 60 credits must be given to elective disciplines, which they choose in order to intensify his knowledge. The obtained credits will be taken into account in accordance with the positions of selected specialties.

b) Master's Degree. Students earn 120 credits during 2 years of studying for master's degree in the selected limited specialties.

c) Ph.D. Degree. Students working for doctorates earn 180 credits during 3 years and defend their work.

6. Enriching the university library with modern textbooks.

As the Georgian education system inherited the Soviet education system, there are a lot of old textbooks in university libraries that don't correspond to modern demands. The study of working principles of the USA University Library will give us the opportunity to introduce them in the Georgian universities for more effectiveness.

7. The Strategy of university development.

The organization of university educational strategy is the most important factor for the modern Georgian university education system. A properly organized working plan will

give the opportunity to the University to attain success quickly. From this point of view, the experience of the USA university system is valuable.

Georgian society and its educational system obtained rather complicated inheritance. It's natural, that the existed values of the past had a negative influence on the current situation. We still come across deformed values, legal and civil immature attitudes towards marked facts of thinking. The society, whose members have no modern knowledge of market economy, business management, they need to fill this deficit. The modernization of higher education system just gives us business opportunities to establish real education system; in its turn it will result in global and mental changing, turn our society into highly developed, legal, democratic and moral nation, having high civil intelligence.

Nowadays a great reform is carried out in the sphere of Georgian higher education. Qualification degree of future generations depends on its success. The management of University education is the most important from this point of view.

The dismantling of old Soviet management is going on at Georgian Universities, but very often we come across difficulties while creating new models, because the lack of skilled workers is felt. In such situation, management responsibility is especially great, as right and effective management demands knowledge of western educational system.

Getting practical and theoretical knowledge of management of higher education in the USA University is important to young Georgian specialists. From this point of view, our interest was intensified by our participation in the training "Experience of American education for Georgian educational system", that was held in Bakuriani in April, 2004.

The detailed knowledge of the educational process of western Universities and its introducing into Georgian reality is valuable. The basis of the successful fulfillment of this measure is an effective management.

Our sphere of interests includes the following questions:

1. The goal of University Education; 2. University structure; 3. Planning of educational process;
2. Educational process;
3. Educational programs: a) bachelor`s, b) master`s, c) Ph. D. degree;
6. University library and the use of Information Technologies;
7. Strategic plan of the University development.

Our vision towards each question theoretically is the following:

1. The goal of University Education.

The aim of the University must be the development of the research of fundamental sciences. Introduction of modern principles of infinite education; the introduction of effective education courses, that will be oriented on the labor market;

It's very important to draw skilled academic and administrative staff in order to fulfill the above mentioned goals; to create attractive atmosphere for students for study, research and self development; to establish University communications with other Universities in Georgia and abroad; introduction of short-term professional refresher courses.

2. University structure.

Georgian law on higher education (Georgian "Law on Higher Education", Tbilisi, 2004) adjusts University structure, but effective machinery forming demands certain experience.

There must be as many departments in the University, as it is necessary at the given time to support study and research processes properly. The existing of definite training centers will help to develop limited specialties at the departments. According to the possibilities of the University, summer schools planning will deposit an important part in students` improving.

3. Planning of Educational process.

Educational process is planned by European Credit Transmission System (ECTS). It means, that to get a bachelor`s degree one must get 240 credits; it`s necessary to get 120 credits for master`s degree, and 180 credits for Ph.D. degree. The capacity of one credit equals to 25 hours.

Approximately, a quarter of the hours belongs to lecture hours, the rest is distributed between students` independent work and individual work with the professors.

4. Educational process.

Special attention must be paid to students` mobilization. From this point of view, a very interesting format is given by Ilia Chavchavadze State University: in the first term of the first year all the admitted students learn one and the same program, whose main subjects are: “Introduction to the modern thinking”, “Writing”, “Informational Technologies”, “English”. The 1st and the 2nd subjects will last one term, but the 3rd and the 4th – two terms. A student won`t get bachelor`s degree without a certificate in “English” and “Information Technologies”. The demand of modern scientific atmosphere is to place these two subjects as an obligatory condition (G. Tevzadze, the Planning of University Strategic Development, Tbilisi, 2006, www.iliauni.edu.ge).

5. Educational Programs.

- a) Bachelor`s degree. A student chooses major and minor specialties after three terms of study. He must get 120 credits in major specialty, minimum 60 in minor specialty, the rest 60 credits must be given to selective disciplines, which he chooses in order to intensify his knowledge. The obtained credits will be taken into account in accordance with the positions of the selected specialties.
- b) Master`s degree. A student must get 120 credits during 2 years of studying for master`s degree in the selected limited specialty.
- c) Ph.D. degree. A student, working for doctorate is obliged to get 180 credits during 3 years and defend his thesis.

6. Enriching University library with the modern textbooks.

As Georgian educational system inherited Soviet educational system, there are a lot of old textbooks at the Universities` libraries, that don`t correspond to modern demands.

Getting know the working principles of western University libraries will give our specialists an opportunity to introduce it in Georgian University atmosphere for more effectiveness of the Education.

7. The strategy of the University development.

The organization of University Educational strategy is the most important point for the modern Georgian University Educational system. Properly organized working plan will give an opportunity to the University to gain success quickly. Special degree of responsibility must be seen in the future professional goals of higher education. The right introduction of a new educational management at Georgian Universities is the deposit of a future success.

The production of highly qualified final-year students, oriented on the labor market, demands special responsibility, which is slowly beginning in Georgian sphere. Precise forecasting of market conditions demands great responsibility and the use of western experience.

Tri-step educational system is the innovation in Georgian University sphere. The use of western experience is also important for its effective development. In the process of globalization, we must be very responsible in the introduction of exact western experience.

The participation in the creation of the effective management system in the Georgian University sphere is the primary problem. Deep acquaintance of the western University system will become the basis of the future of Georgian University activity. Using the system will intensify effective management of Georgian University and accordingly the quality of studies. We must be interested in the University structure, in the specific function of each structural unit and the determination of the effect of their collaboration.

Practical learning of western model of education management will help to increase effective management quality of Georgian Universities.

The production of training systems and sharing the experience gives great effect, and it will help to arrange more qualified staff by its spreading wide.

The administration of Georgian University, as well as the academic staff, needs retraining by means of trainings. It`s important to create effective systems of administration management according to western experience.

Establishing relationships between western Universities and Georgia Universities` staff will increase the importance of responsibility. Presentation of Georgian national traditions to western Universities and organization of powerful western national and cultural centre at Georgian Universities is important, it will give an opportunity to colleagues and students to intensify their knowledge about western University Education and get in touch with the world Universities.

Quick development of technologies presents new demands to the modern specialist. The complication of management systems puts the necessity of multi branch knowledge on the agenda.

During the reform process, for the development of the Georgian University system, it`s important to share the University experience of leading countries and its integration with Georgian cultural sphere with great responsibility.

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