

Mission

I. Preamble

The current edition of preamble of private law entity – Grigol Robakidze State University is created with regards to global and related social economic and cultural (in global understanding) reality of the state. It fully reflects the main mission of the University, based on Georgian Law on “High Education”, new educational requirements and 17 years of academic and research experience.

The new document describes specifications of University’s activity, its mission and functions: it distinctly expresses University’s development stages in historical and current context, it shows strong points of the University gained through experience and hence its strategic view of implementing its educational, research and social functions. For simplifying understanding of the mission text and for thematic orientation this document is divided into chapters expressed with Roman numbers and sub-chapters, the latter is marked in Arabic numbers.

The University Mission is a fundamental document that makes basement for University’s activities. Meantime, it is open and is subject to correction considering new factors.

1. Global Historical Context

Georgian University was established on the ground of German model in the 20-s of the last century. It had to merge the idea of state with academic freedom and protect Georgian cultural identity and honor in conditions of not –established statehood. Soviet period removed Georgian University from logical context of historical development and imposed implementation of ideological function – not constituent to the University, and its primary function was transferred in latent form. It meant that development vector of Georgian University passed global social debate process that actually formed order from the society and market, as main driving axel of University system transformation.

Thus, Georgian University skipped the essential phase of global development of University system, such as industrial, post-industrial and modern university projects, consequently it was unprepared for the modern, so called, global informational community epoch requirement.

2. National Historical Context

In 1991 Georgian Parliament made decision on establishment of nongovernmental (private) High Educational Institutions. This prepared the bases for creating new High Educational Institutions.

In August 4, 1992 Greigol Robakidze University- a Private Law Entity was established. It was registered as Independent University-“Alma Mater” by then.

At that time High Education system still had soviet standards and soviet educational policy still had a strong momentum that was rough and conservative in its nature.

There was no new educational standard; therefore educational institutions had to apply old, unified programs as manual.

And these programs still lagged behind the country’s strategic-social economic development requirements.

Existing educational methods were less effective, that had negative impact on educational quality.

3. Development

Feeling immobilization tendencies, the University started reforms, center of gravity of teaching and learning processes shifted to students step-by-step. Principles of academic independence were introduced; Harmonious conditions of teaching and research work were created; unified system of receiving theoretical education and practical skill was formed; University allots solid financial recourses for this purpose to create modern technical laboratorial base.

Internal reform had its results. According to international research of UNESCO Educational Management in 2002, the University was named among progressive educational institutions and was in top five according to employment rate. In the same report of the institute it was underlined that among these 5 institutions it was only Grigol Robakidze University that was established with local capital and the rest four had foreign capital Investment.

These two aspects distinguished the University as unique and viable.

Establishment of western educational values put changing of the University's name on agenda. On demand from students and academic personal University was named after great Georgian thinker-Grigol Robakidze. Thus, from April of 1996 independent institute "Alma Mater" keeps on functioning as private law legal entity – Grigol Robakidze University.

In spite of progress University was still far from European standards: evaluation system was not changed, curricula was not optimized – we had no such mechanisms, that could promote total display and development of student's intellectual and creative resource, creation of healthy motivation to learning.

University still inspires to solve these problems and is still in process of investigation. It made contacts with famous foreign Institutions, created tradition of international collaboration that truly played great role in forming modern system of teaching and learning, though achievements were still far from the desired.

4. TEMPUS TACIS

TEMPUS TACIS project played invaluable role. It was launched in University in March, 2001 and implied setting European standards in teaching and learning. The project was a good stimulus for increasing internal reforms pace and making cardinal changes; new educational concept was created; new approaches were made to teaching and learning process; result oriented curricula were made, Anglo-Saxon model of credits transferring and gathering was introduced.

Student became a central figure, and University's academic and material technical potential conformed to his/her interest. Student lost the function object to teaching but became a central subject to new academic symbiosis-teaching and learning.

5. National Educational Reform

In 2005 Georgian parliament adopted a law on "High Education" that was a bases for total reforming of the country's high education system. Is should be noted that the whole academic system of Grigol Robakidze University turned out to be in total compliance with new law requirements after Tempus TACIS project

implementation. Meanwhile the Law was a powerful impulse for speeding internal reform and re-thinking University Mission.

II. Mission Essence

6. University Function and Identity

University is a dynamic academic system that considers its function in global and national development context, based on community requirement and idea of Georgian University. The main resource of its function is the fields of social activities formed by actual context of the country's development, and they are: a) Forming of educational society, social and professional mobility, stipulated by education based development, characteristic to national economic development. b) Global technological and service innovations development and adaptation of the country's economy to this process; c) Development of national culture, including business that provides condition for ensuring community welfare;

Thus, University complies main fields of its competence - education and science with community requirements and creates new functional direction – community service. University is developing as innovative High Education Institution that means ability to react quickly on external factors and community requirements, continuous improvement of educational and scientific research product quality and meeting customers' demands by introducing new service technologies.

7. University Role/Mission

1. University mission is to prepare new generation specialists with large competencies that will promote multilateral range development of knowledge based economy and knowledge community's.
2. To bring up competitive specialists, persons with sense of citizenship, national consciousness, having liberal values, and with awareness of Georgian and World culture values.
3. To ensure students' growth perspective, development of their personal and creative potential by increasing potential of international mobility and by implementing educational programs of all three level.
4. To create effective system for developing scientific research sphere, that creates base for enlarging scientific potential of academic personal and preparing new scientific staff.
5. To create service system oriented on community requirements on the basis of academic and scientific-research experience.

8. University's activity is based on the following values/principles

1. Liberalization, democracy, openness of teaching and learning process.
2. Objectiveness, honesty, high responsibility.
3. Learning – humanization and social activeness.
4. Student - central subject of teaching and learning process.
5. Academic inaccessibility and freedom of research.
6. Freedom of choice, transparency, justice.

9. University's Functional Directions

a) Education – Teaching and Learning

University concentrates its academic resources on development of social activities such as: business, mostly banking-financial, travel sector, law, public healthcare, social and humanitarian sciences. Hence, its educational strategy is oriented on giving rational knowledge and working out general competencies.

Development of new economic and social infra structure that is stimulated with large scale investment makes basis for knowledge based economy and, hence for the development of knowledge based labor market. In other words, market demands more qualified human recourses, mostly for medium entrepreneurs circle. So, University develops bachelor's programs that prepare specialists for middle range positions.

University understands that for innovative development of different spheres it is necessary to prepare personnel with deeper theoretical knowledge and professional skills than BA programs can ensure. Thus it will primarily develop Magister and Doctoral programs that aim to prepare qualified personnel for high scientific, academic and management hierarchy.

To insure efficiency of educational programs University systematically develops modern methods and technology of education, for this it constantly cares about professional development of academic personnel and improvement of material technical resources.

For effectiveness of educational programs University develops partnership with advanced foreign institutions: created integral, joint programs, widens possibilities for knowledge deepening through distance learning.

On the whole teaching and learning process serves new knowledge transferring and generating multilateral skills, as well as qualification change/improvement, through this University promotes the country's economic development, logical managements of social and professional mobility process.

b) Research and Creativity

University inspires to develop as modern educational research institution. For this purpose it directs its effort to development of innovative research, for which it systematically improves research management system and relevant institutional base.

To support program published in September of 2007 by Georgian Government and to meet requirement of Georgian law on 'high education', University strengthens effort to harmonize research and teaching and learning process, supports implementation of research projects of academic personnel and students and creative initiative.

Thus, University supports development of branch science; adaptation of the country's economic with global technological and service innovation process, generally development of community culture.

c) Community Service

University's orientation on community requirement implies not only its academic and research activity, but also community service itself that is based on University's intellectual resource, its academic experience and research result.

So, University renders community service into the following directions:

- a) Clinical and consultation service;
- b) Professional development and re-qualification;
- c) Expertise.

By setting this component of its activities in promotion, University ensures meeting community requirements and improving its welfare.

10. Students Support

Teaching and learning process in University is oriented on complete opening of intellectual and creative possibilities of a student – a subject of this process and his/her preparing for career.

With regards of a student's factor University systematically updates and enlarges teaching resources, ensures maximally comfortable environment, cares for the student's nourishment, hygiene and health service improvement.

University promotes students' mobility for which it transfers its activity to the direction of education programs' liberalization, continues work with foreign educational institutions for enlargement possibilities of continuing education.

Students are aware that have balanced responsibility together with University of solving tasks defined by educational program, acquiring quality knowledge and skills, that's why they participate in creation of University's management hierarchy. They have chance to monitor own educational process, meantime evaluate services offered by University, express their own attitude towards professors body. On its hand, University operatively resolves problematic issues or includes them in the future action plan.

According to demands of knowledge based labor market, for the purpose of giving quality education, University attracts big range of talented and hard working young people in spite of their nationality and political-religious view, for this it widens society relation system, but for the sake of accessibility creates flexible financial politics.

11. Instruments

University carries out its mission:

Through educational programs that serves forming national concept and liberal values, developing multilateral academic and general competences, understanding Georgian and world cultural values, interpreting the Country's historical, political and economical development tendencies in global context.

Through common system of quality management that ensures quality education.

Through different types of international educational projects that ensures increasing competition among graduates.

Through educational resources that serves education as well as research process.

Through developing scientific research system that supports creation of relevant conditions for generation new knowledge, development of the country's scientific potential.

Through academic and social support programs, cultural, sport and entertainment projects.

Through community service system that is oriented on the community's social and intellectual support.

Through flexible management system that ensures coordinated and effective functioning of University's each structural unit.

12. University's Independence and Uniqueness

According to UNESCO education system management research, University was in top five among Georgian high education institutions by indicator of employed graduates. It was also regarded as the only national educational institution established by national capital.

University develops integrated/common academic programs with partner educational institutions abroad by granting qualification and diploma of two Universities.

Before starting national reform University considered prioritized necessity of theoretical and practical integration of teaching-learning process by using simulation and practical methods. Meanwhile, it laid foundation for professional and general skills generation conformable to receiving theoretical education and market demand.

From this point of view, traditionally TV journalistic, dentistry, criminology and criminalist educational systems is distinguished with originality and effectiveness of the important results can be among medicine profile educational meeting in January, 2006 in the report of health ministry.

University is the first educational establishment in Georgia that took responsibility for education as well as its organization in the 90th of the last century. It systematically updates educational resources for implementing this function with regards of the student's function creates comfortable conditions for independent studies as well as group work.

Relation among professors and teachers in University is based on collaboration principle. Effective system of inter-evaluation is created that helps forming atmosphere of self-critical, honest attitude towards work and therefore stipulating motivation of correcting in own work.

Employees' development perspective insurance system is created in University. It implies:

- a) Ensuring publication of scientific work of professors and teachers at University cost;
- b) Providing programs for professional development, training organization;
- c) Simplified scheme of promoting to higher position.

III. Definitions

1. Project of Industrial Institution-from the late XIX century including 60th of XX civil University idea was foremost, and was formed as social project of industrial age.

Main feature of this type of University was particular specialization and separation of basic and applied researches.

2. Shifting in latent strata – transferring in hidden form i.e. transferring into condition that actually exists but is not revealed.

3. Culture, in its deeper – combination of community achievements in science, art and other fields and level at which these achievements are used for the community welfare.

4. Modern University from the end of XX century, new specific social motilities began that should result in globalization process completion and national boundaries abolishment.

