

ADRIATIC UNION COLLEGE

SPIRITUAL MASTER PLAN

1. Introduction

One of the most important tasks of our society is to follow young people during their development and to help them to become competent and mature citizens. In order to fulfill this task in today's era of rapid changes and degradation of values, it is important that all our educational activities are strongly spiritually focused. The focus on spiritual dimension of human existence is a part of a biblical worldview that is foundational to all our educational activities. In the Adventist philosophy of education spiritual growth based on biblical revelation is not optional but is seen as affecting very fabric of our personal and corporate life.

1.1. Spiritual Basics

To find God, to love people, to serve those in need

In the community of Adriatic Union College we support each other in:

- **Faith** (developing trust in God)
- **Love** (building good interpersonal relationships)
- **Service** (taking responsibility for others)

We want *to find God, love people and serve those in need*. This is achieved in our academic community:

- a) ... by supporting each other to build a strong relationship with God and to deepen it daily. We construct a positive attitude towards spiritual issues and support spiritual climate in all aspects of our College life: in class and research, in work, in spiritual activities, and in free time. By our life we want to show an active relationship with God.
- b) ... by fostering each other to build valuable and strong interpersonal relationships with people on campus and in surrounding communities.
- c) ... by equipping each other to take responsibility for each other, for people in need and for the world which is suffering (decaying) because they don't know God. Therefore, we encourage all the members of our College to be actively involved in service and mission, so that they can develop the abilities for leadership, service and responsible life towards everything that God had created.

1.2. Mission

AUC strives to educate its students to understand their calling as a commitment to God in finishing the work of salvation according to three angel's message. So, our mission is to equip ministerial students and lay members for healthy spirituality and mature and responsible participation in a church life and quality religious education. We thus seek to strengthen our church community and provide a biblical basis for an active and meaningful participation in all areas of human life.

1.3. Values

We value:

- Spiritually mature and responsible characters
- Ability to think critically in the light of the biblical teachings

- Active participation in the life of Church
- Beneficial serving to the people

1.4. Principles of Development

- A person can be a catalyst for change only if he or she is a changed person. Daily submission to Jesus Christ manifested in a sanctified life is the key to modeling future religion teachers, pastors and church leaders.
- Personal integrity is crucial for authentic educational and pastoral ministry.
- A positive educational environment fosters development of health and balanced persons in an academic and church family.

2. Action Plans

We are making action plans in two fundamental areas of our work: development of character and witnessing. All these actions should have measureable goals; they are to be recorded by the Secretary, while administration and the Board are responsible for regular reviewing of the actions' realization.

2.1. Character development

It is our goal to build-up characters that will be capable to serve, both to Church and to the surrounding community. In order to achieve that goal, we are engaged in following areas of activity:

- a. Personal help to students – or, mentorship in twofold aspects: teacher-student mentorship; and student-student mentorship (tutelage). We will strive towards the activities that will strengthen interpersonal relationships, thus creating a friendly atmosphere that is a prerequisite for the process of learning.
- b. Educating students
 - i. Firstly, our curriculum and teaching practice should equip students with virtues of critical and well-developed thinking within the parameters set by the Bible;
 - ii. Various educational activities should be added to the regular teaching process; they will include student assemblies and its special lectures, as well as panel-discussions, study-trips, etc. The students and staff will be continuously motivated to participate in different worships on campus. Apart from the vespers (see 2.2.1. a), staff is expected to have Sabbath sermons, Friday evening vespers and youth-service (Sabbath afternoon) speeches. Staff also participates in teachers' preparation for the Sabbath school Bible lessons. In sum there should be at least 12 such sermons and speeches per year, plus minimum five classes for Sabbath-school teachers. It also includes teaching lessons in Sabbath-school on and off-campus (at least twice a month). On the other hand, students are expected to actively participate in different worships and programs according to the practicum diary (which is regularly reviewed by the Associate Dean).
 - iii. At last but not least, students should be involved in practical activities which will help them in developing their capabilities to serve. The rationale behind this is that one becomes servant only through serving. The most important means of such an involvement is integration of student's practicum into the life of the local church and Conference. Staff and students should serve both to the local church, as well as to the wider Church family (Conference and Union). We think that AUC should help the education of Church members, youth, and children.

Table 1: Activities directed towards character development		
Action	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline
Spiritual and academic mentorship	Associate Dean	Beginning of academic year
Staff participation in worships	Pastor	At least 12 times per year
Classes for Sabbath-school teachers	Pastor	At least 5 times a year
Teaching in Sabbath School	Pastor	At least twice a month
Review of students' participation in worships	Associate Dean	At least 4 times a year
Organizing tutelage (support relationships) between student and student, administrator and student etc.	Associate Dean, Student association	Beginning of academic year
Informal socializing with students (at homes and domestic environment)	Associate Dean	Ongoing
Help in organizing joint trips of College, Secondary School, and Church	Associate Dean, Pastor	Once a year
Stimulating the study of the Bible throughout our lectures	Teachers	Ongoing
Additional lectures about health (mental and physical)	Secretary	Assemblies, 4 times a year
Integrating student practicum in spiritual life of the Church	Associate Dean, Pastor	End of the first semester; final review at the end of the academy year
Regular spiritual assemblies	Associate Dean	Once a week
Small home groups	Pastor, Associate Dean	Once a week
Student prayer meetings	Academic Dean, Secretary	Once a week
Participation in sport activities organized on and off-campus (sport day; sport tournaments)	Associate Dean, Student association	At least twice a year
Caring about the quality of food in cafeteria	Kitchen, Academic Dean	Ongoing
Teaching time- and stress-management	Secretary	Assemblies, 2-4 a year
Panel discussions etc. on contemporary life issues (lounge room, Friday evening)	Associate Dean, Pastor	At least twice a year
Assistance to local churches by offering forums, seminars and lectures about current social and theological issues	Academic Dean, Associate Dean	At least twice a year
Preparing educational materials for teachers in religious classes (primary and secondary schools)	Adriatic Union, Croatian Conference	Two textbooks in 2014; additional materials in 2014;
We cooperate and help in regional	Associate Dean	At least twice a year

church gatherings, youth congresses etc.		
Visiting other local churches (having sermons, lessons, etc.)	Academic Dean, Associate Dean	Twice a month
Participation in equipping our Union youth in doing a mission	Associate Dean	Once a year

2.2. Witnessing

The primary goal of the AUC is to prepare students for witnessing. Yet the institution itself has to take its part in particular acts of witnessing. Some of these activities naturally overlap with our marketing activities. All these activities should be recorded by the AUC Secretary, and regularly reviewed on the Board meetings.

2.2.1. Levels of witnessing:

1. Secondary school students

Since the significant percentage of the Secondary school students are non-Adventists (most of them never heard for SDA Church), we feel that at least a part of our witnessing activities should be oriented towards these students. At this area we find following opportunities for witnessing:

- a. Regular vespers – they are attended by all dormitory students; AUC takes the responsibility to have one vesper per week, held by its faculty member or a student. We will carefully control whether this rhythm is strictly followed. The persons responsible for carrying out this project are associate dean (from the part of the College); deans of dormitories (from the part of the Secondary School); and the local church pastor.
- b. Small groups – we expect that at least one prayer group should be organized and led by AUC students. We will observe the following parameters:
 - i) Number of these groups (at least one)
 - ii) Number of the AUC students involved (at least two per group)
 - iii) Rhythm of its meetings (at least once a week)
 - iv) Number of secondary students attending it (as well as its increase or decrease)
 - v) Number of secondary school students included in the work of the group(s) that later were baptized.
- c. On-campus evangelistic campaigns – AUC will assist to the local church’s evangelistic projects or even organize such a project once a year. Such project should be integrated with the work of small groups. We are ready to offer our faculty staff or students participating in any area of a work.
- d. Personal Bible-studies with those preparing for baptism – faculty staff and seminary students are expected to share Bible-lessons to persons that expressed their wish to be prepared for baptism. AUC, in cooperation with pastor, is going to organize such studies at least once a year.

2. Local community – we find that AUC may develop some forms of witnessing to the local community as well:

- a. Humanitarian concerts – in a strong cooperation with the Secondary School and the local church, AUC takes part in humanitarian concerts, usually organized twice a year (spring and winter). AUC encourages its staff and students to take an active part in organizing and carrying out such program. The responsible persons are Secondary School Principal, Academic Dean and pastor.
- b. Columns in local weekly magazine – AUC faculty have been asked to cooperate with the popular local weekly magazine by writing some short, spiritual columns. We think that our goal should be at least 6 columns per year. Responsible person is the AUC secretary.

- c. Parag project – we are to continue the project for helping Roma community in Parag (30 km away from Maruševec) that has been led by Friedensau University. The project itself should yield with its concrete results until the end of 2015. AUC helps in logistics, liaison with Roma community and local authorities, and in all other aspects that will help the project's success. The responsible person is Academic Dean.
3. Witnessing to the wider community – as the academic institution, AUC has also opportunity to have some impact on the wider community. We see such opportunities in following activities:
- a. Theological symposium – one of our goals is to become recognized within academic community. Organization of the first theological symposium in 2011 was successful and we decided to have such symposia biannually. The second symposium was organized from 24-25 June 2013, with participants from Croatia and abroad, Adventists and non-Adventists, and was equally successful. The publication of a *Biblical Perspectives* special issue will followed the event. The responsible persons are Academic Dean and the Associate Dean for Development.
 - b. *Biblical Perspectives* – although coming from our small College, its editions found the way to different theological and religious circles in Croatia and neighboring countries during the 1990's. Its revivification should find even wider audience, since it has already been included in HRCAK.hr academic online data-base, thus accessible to scholars in our region and the whole world (some articles are going to be written in English). The responsible persons are Academic Dean (editor in chief) and Associate Dean for the Development (executive editor).
 - c. Transliteration of the first Croatian version of the New Testament. Firstly published in the 16th century, this version has been reprinted a few years ago by the Protestant Theological Seminary *Matija Vlačić Ilirik*, Zagreb. However, both editions were written in Glagolitic and Cyrillic scripts, unreadable by a common reader today. The project of transliterating the first part of Novi Testament was successfully completed in cooperation with University of Zagreb and major Croatian publishing house (Skolska knjiga). Eight presentations of this transliteration were held in the following cities: Zagreb, Osijek, Vazdin, Rijeka, Pula, Sisak, Beograd, Mostar, and Buzet. The work on the transliteration of the second part of Novi Testament is ongoing activity of AUC.
 - d. Facebook activities – in the past year we have already participated via Facebook in many discussion forums and thus we were able to deliver our message to the various people (Christians, non-Christians, irreligious, etc.) who could not be reached via usual means. We will follow the increase in Facebook friends, and their response to our activities (including a rise in non-Adventist communicating with us). This activity should be ongoing and the responsible persons are the Academic Dean and the Associate Dean.
 - e. Assistance in the Union evangelizing campaigns – we are always ready to take part in evangelistic projects organized either by the Union/Conference or the local churches. Our goal is to lead or take an active part in such projects at least once a year. The responsible persons are the Academic Dean and the Associate Dean (with the assistance of the Union and Conference administration).
 - f. At last but not least, we aim to help our constituency in continual education of pastors. For that purpose we expect to have at least one lecture per year during our regular pastoral meetings.

Table 2: A summary table for the AUC witnessing activities:		
Action	Person(s) Responsible	Timeline
On-campus evening worships	Associate Dean, Dormitory Deans, Pastor	Once a week
Small groups	Associate Dean, Pastor	At least one group with at least two AUC students, once a week
On-campus campaigns	Academic Dean, Pastor	At least once a year
Personal Bible-studies	Associate dean, Pastor	At least once a year
Encouraging students and coworkers to make contacts with the people in our neighborhood.	Pastor	Ongoing
Humanitarian concerts	Academic Dean, Secondary School Principal, Pastor	Twice a year
Columns in the local weekly magazine	Secretary	At least six times a year
Parag project	Academic Dean	2013-2015
Theological symposia	Academic Dean, Associate Dean for Development	Biannually (2013, 2015, etc.)
<i>Biblical Perspectives</i> journal	Academic Dean, Associate Dean for Development	Annually
Transliteration of the New Testament	Associate Deans	October 2013 (Gospels), October 2014 (complete)
<i>Facebook</i> activities	Academic Dean, Associate Dean	Three statuses per week, at least one discussion per week
Off-campus evangelistic campaigns	Academic Dean, Associate Dean	At least once a year
Continual education for pastors	Academic Dean, Associate Dean	At least one lecture per year

Maruševec, December 2013.