Renewal of PRME Commitment – President Margee Ensign

- Dean Vrajlal Sapovadia

Vision and Mission Statements

American University of Nigeria – Vision and Mission Statement

Vision

AUN seeks to become a great center of learning and research for Nigeria and Africa, and a catalyst for development in the entire world. In the words of its Founder, it sees its role as a "Development University". Thus, the University will honor the traditional university roles of repository and transmitter of culture and knowledge, and center for the creation of new knowledge. As a "Development University", it will focus on the practical role that a great university must play in the development of a great nation.

Mission Statement

The University’s mission is to provide quality education to Nigeria and Africa’s future leaders in order to equip them with the skills needed to solve development issues on the continent, and give them the knowledge needed to create solutions that will benefit their community, their country and, ultimately, the world.

To this end, AUN will foster the creation of leaders committed to sustaining a democracy in which diverse people share in the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, proficient in creating and applying technology to wise purpose, and dedicated to securing a humane and prosperous world.

AUN will become a place where students’ dreams become Africa’s future. At AUN, lives will be transformed for service and leadership to lead Africa and the world in the challenging years ahead.

AUN will become

To realize this vision and fulfill our mission, we will focus our planning n the following strategic goals:

1. AUN will be a Development University for Africa
2. Retain and recruit faculty with the highest standards and academic excellence who are devoted to teaching, research and mentoring students to solve societal problems.

3. Foster and build an environment that develops students who are problem solvers, and whose lives are transformed for service and leadership.

4. Develop and encourage the effective use of technology to support learning and research by students and faculty.

5. Develop the physical environment to support the learning, teaching and research goals of a Development University.

6. Accelerate and sustain financial growth to achieve financial stability.

7. Help create and sustain a social and political environment supportive of these goals.

Deriving from its Vision and Mission, the American University of Nigeria has identified the following as a set of values it seeks to embody and foster:

We believe that tolerance and understanding among national, ethnic, and religious groups are essential to the success of this or any other nation. The university will actively work to instill these values in its students and will itself reflect them in its policies.

We believe that the university, in all of its activities, shall demonstrate the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and academic honesty.

We believe that freedom of expression is fundamental to any intellectual community and affirm that all members of the AUN community will have the freedom to express any opinion without fear of reprisals of any kind.

We believe that entrepreneurship and technology are essential to the transformation of Nigeria and Africa and affirm that every graduate will internalize the basics of innovation and entrepreneurship and will be technically literate.

We aspire to train the next generation of leadership for Africa, incorporating leadership training in the curriculum at AUN.

**School of Business and Entrepreneurship - Mission Statement**

The mission of the leadership of the School of Business & Entrepreneurship (SBE) is to create an environment that develops students who are problem solvers; to coach and mentor students to readily recognize opportunities, needs of the community, and galvanize stakeholders into action to improve peoples’ lives by creating and running innovative ventures. Furthermore, it is our mission to cultivate, nurture, and develop faculty to work in a genuinely collaborative way in a quest to achieve our common goal of providing effective training to our students by realizing our stated learning outcomes.

The philosophy of the MBA program is to develop highly skilled professional managers for the public, private and international organizations. Such a program should be capable of deepening the spirit of enquiry to undertake research, teaching, and administrative responsibility to face the global world.
Principle 1: **PURPOSE**

Principles that guide us: AUN is Development University of Africa guided through its core values (i) Excellence (ii) Integrity (iii) Service

We aim to develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy. We aim to build young leaders who values democracy and effectively participate to improve life of local community. We run several program to encourage students and provide platform to demonstrate leadership in our regular activities. Our students participate in various community services.

Ethics and integrity are winning characteristics of high-performing organizations over the long term. We want our business school—and our graduates—to be guided by the highest principles of honesty, fairness, transparency, and moral courage. We consider ethics and integrity as sacrosanct and non-compromising. We have appropriate technology tools in place to check cases of plagiarism and rule to mitigate such attempts.

Business education is no longer about the simple acquisition of knowledge—instead, it’s about giving students transformational experiences that show employers and others what they can do with that knowledge. Our teaching is supported by appropriate blend of practical exposure through internship, industry visits and workshops.

Business today is rapidly changing and our competitors aren’t standing still. We embrace change and monitor trends in business education to measure ourselves against external benchmarks as well as by who our students become.

Our students need to understand different cultures since today’s business environment is increasingly and unmistakably global. Indeed, our students will enter a work world filled with cross-functional teams and eroding boundaries across disciplines, communities, and cultures. We have staff and faculties from more than 35 nations, all think and work in one direction → Mission of AUN.

Our business perspective is shaped by the excellence, integrity and service emphasizing on respect for the world and the pursuit of good environmental stewardship and social justice in doing so. In addition, our faculty and staff show mutual respect toward each other as well as our students, even when differences of opinion exist. We have culture of accepting different views and converting them into mutual views by eliminating differences; we create synergy out of diverse views.

Our approach to business education is based on a philosophy that responsible, ethical leadership in business creates a better society for all. The program expands beyond the classroom learning into boardroom leadership, workplace integrity and community action. We earned these distinctions based upon its legacy of producing ethical leaders, providing innovative curricula, attracting the highest caliber of students and retaining exceptional faculty revered for their scholarly excellence and practical expertise. Our students have won honour in several educational, industry, governmental and service organisations.
Principle 2: **VALUES**

AUN’s core Value: Excellence, Integrity, Service

**Values Statement**

Our values statement defines what we hold in common as members of the AUN community, and informs our vision and mission statements.

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We believe that the University, in all of its activities, shall demonstrate the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and academic honesty.

We believe that freedom of expression is fundamental to any intellectual community and affirm that all members of the AUN community will have the to express any opinion without fear of reprisals of any kind.

Following courses are part of General Education requirement irrespective of any specialization:

CDV 10_ Community Service

ENT 101 Introduction to Entrepreneurship

PHI 300 Ethics & Leadership

CIV 10_, 20_ Civilizations and Cultures

Principle 3: **METHOD**

Learning Methods revolves around primary axle that all course learnings are AUN’s mission centered and secondary axle to problem centered approach to instruction. We believe that students’ continuous motivation is key to effective learning. We encourage students to participate in class discussion and bring criticality to the discussions. Our teaching is appropriate mix of imparting knowledge and skill, shaping attitude, instilling confidence, sensitizing on ethical and environmental issues. Our teaching focuses on how to solve real life problems. We attempt to expand their dreams, creativity and innovation.

Principle 4: **RESEARCH**

AUN encourages teachers and students to think beyond and out of box; that improve life of the community. Each course has appropriate mix of project work based on research. Our faculty members are striving for creating new knowledge base. AUN policies are conducive to support research initiative with proper budget allocation.
AUN is a member of the International Center for Academic Integrity. The University also has been admitted into the international membership category of the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), a US-based association of more than 600 non-profit colleges and universities.


Invitation [from US Embassy] to join Fulbright Affiliate institutions in Nigeria. November 18, 2011


Innovative International Library Project Award, by the American Library Association (ALA). June 27 to July 2, 2013.


The Pillar of Education Award [President Margee Ensign], by National Association of Oduduwa Students (NAOS). August 22, 2013.


AUN is in partnership with Tulane University in New Orleans, one of the top institutions in the United States. Other partner institutions include American University (Washington, D.C.), George Mason University, Oxford University, Kansas State University, Eastern Mediterranean University, and John Cabot University in Italy.

With these partnerships, exchange programs have been designed in order to enable students to attend school at home and abroad.
Principle 6: **DIALOGUE**

PRINCIPLE 2 - Values We will incorporate into our academic activities and curricula the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.

Faculty incorporated additional alignment with PRME values in the following academic activities and curricula:

The MGT901 course (offered to PhD Students, Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship) is designed to capture development themes of World Development Reports 2000-2016 and aligned around problem solving how entrepreneurship can foster it.

(1) Case Competition

(2) Consulting Project (Also Supports Principle 5)

PRINCIPLE 3 - Method We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.

The emphasis on practical application of ethical decision tools – a managerial approach to business ethics – enables us to address this PRME principle. As opposed to a more philosophical approach, each instructor of the Group Issue Debate Presentation -

In addition, there are other assignments, such as:

PRINCIPLE 4 - Research We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.

Publications

PRINCIPLE 5 - Partnership We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.

The process involves such steps as:

pre-screening meeting teleconferences;

screening meetings at which entrepreneurs present their companies;

investor meetings at which entrepreneurs again present and investors vote on whether to invest; and
Due diligence review.

PRINCIPLE 6 - Dialogue We will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organizations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to peace, global social responsibility and sustainability. We understand that our own organizational practices should serve as example of the values and attitudes we convey to our students. Our academic programs and activities are coupled with community service through strong network. This network is result of our continuous dialogue with government, regulatory authorities, academic partners, donors, humanitarian agencies, civil societies, international organisations and so forth.

All academic programs offered at the American University of Nigeria received initial accreditation from the National Universities Commission (NUC) in 2007 and 2008. The NUC's appointed teams of peers who reported their findings to the NUC examined all the programs.

All programs have received FULL accreditation. As an American institution, AUN aspires to the highest standards; AUN strives to comply with American accreditation standards, as outlined by the major regional accrediting bodies in the US.

AUN staff and faculty participate in ongoing dialogues, workshops and seminars — in Nigeria, the US, and on the international accreditation circuit — to ensure that AUN remains at the cutting edge of quality assurance standards while adhering to all laws, rules and regulations of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Development Initiative

As Africa's premier Development University, we are committed to sustainable development projects designed to improve the lives of the local community while exposing students to the realities and challenges facing their fellow citizens. Every student, no matter their major, is required to lend their time and talents to implementing constructive local outreach that will stimulate student understanding and underscore the importance of community service. The overarching goal is to prepare AUN students to be leaders who are knowledgeable, conscientious and engaged citizens of the 21st century.

AUN efforts were fundamental to having been recently chosen by the African Development Magazine as the "Best University in Development in Africa".

The American University of Nigeria (AUN) was established in 2003 by Nigeria’s former Vice President His Excellency, Atiku Abubakar along with other local and international statesmen and academic leaders. The institution was conceived as Africa’s first Development University. Its mission is to pioneer service learning and build leaders who will be prepared to tackle societal concerns. Located in Yola, Adamawa State, the University is a world-class career-oriented institution missioned to be an agent of change in the development of the region. AUN has a strong commitment to providing the skills and the leadership essential to solving the continent’s critical social and economic problems.
The University offers an American-style education modelled after the curriculum of American universities with corresponding approaches to teaching and students assessment. The first entering class of 124 students and 20 professors was enrolled in September 2005. The University started on temporary buildings at the AUN Academy located directly opposite the AUN campus. In seven years, AUN is fast becoming a model for other universities in Nigeria and West Africa.

At AUN enrolees are provided with the tools to achieve personal growth and material success. AUN is a completely wireless University, which is highly focused on IT. Computers, the internet and other critical IT facilities are key tools in teaching. These facilities are deployed in classes and completion of course assignments. With great emphasis on small classes, AUN’s main goal is to graduate well-educated and qualified students in both general knowledge and specialized disciplines. Having acquired first class American education right here in Nigeria, AUN students can remain in the country or Africa and contribute as entrepreneurs, corporate business people, government leaders, scientists and good citizens. AUN offers a complete academic string ranging from elementary, through secondary, to undergraduate to graduate school.

The AUN Academy across from the main campus, operates the elementary school, a Charter School, and a high school with American and international tracks. Since 2009, AUN has consistently graduated four classes. Many of these alumni have either enrolled into top graduate schools abroad, taken up jobs in key organizations or have established personal businesses around the country and abroad. AUN has a sprinkle of international students from around the world ranging from UK, USA, Niger Republic, Ghana, Cameroun and Rwanda. The biggest foreign enrolment ever is from Rwanda where seventeen students have enrolled for the fall 2012 semester.

Resulting from AUN’s unique approach to teaching and community service, the University receives accolades from international organizations and institutions. In 2011 the American Peace Corps, while celebrating its 50th anniversary, conferred on the AUN Founder the first ever Harry Wofford Global Citizenship award for his uncommon generosity and unusual support to higher education. Also in 2011 the AUN President Dr. Margee Ensign won the African Leadership award in Educational Excellence in the UK. In October 2012 AUN was also conferred with another prestigious award in Atlanta Georgia titled Africa Leading University Award 2012.

**Adamawa Peacemakers Initiative**

AUN is a major sponsor of the Adamawa Peace Council (APC) that was established to foster peace and harmony in the region.

Peace through education: As a development university, AUN is deeply committed to education in Adamawa State and throughout Nigeria. Without knowledge and skills, individuals cannot participate in the formal economy.

The AUN-API education component has three programs: primary school literacy and math, secondary school science, technology, engineering and math, (STEM) and a principals and teacher training institute.
Youth Summer Camp: This two-week program centers on employability and has a curriculum incorporating career guidance and counseling, peace education, self-esteem building, communication, and entrepreneurship.

Building Peace through Entrepreneurship/ICT/Financial Literacy/Business Education: The Yola Innovation Machine was developed with the goal of engaging young adults in our rural communities in a way that prepares, organizes and connects them to the formal sector through training and capacity building, idea incubation and provision of business development and support services.

Building peace through sports: AUN’s Peace through Sports initiative provides an opportunity for young people from vulnerable and marginalized communities to develop partnerships with youth from many backgrounds and prepares them for more formal education and job training.

The STELLAR project

STE LLAR stands for STudents Empowered through Language, Literacy and ARithmetic, was designed to harness the knowledge, creativity and civic-mindedness of the AUN student body and to provide critical assistance to primary school children in Adamawa State.

TELA Project

FEED and READ program

AUN Diplomatic Lecture Series

PRME Activities

Prof. Vrajlal Sapovadia participated in PRME meeting held in New York in June 2015

Prof. Vrajlal Sapovadia was invited in 5th PRME Forum in Amman, Jordan in November 2015 to speak on “Paradigm Shift in Teaching Pedagogy in Business Management from Bottom-Line to Triple-Bottom-Line.”, which he could not make due to other important engagements.