

**FACULTY OF ARTS  
PAVOL JOZEF ŠAFÁRIK  
UNIVERSITY**

**CONCEPT OF DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE YEARS 2008-2011**

## History of the Faculty of Arts, Šafárik University

The roots of *studia humanitatis* in Košice reach as far back as in the year 1657, when Universitas Cassoviensis was set up. After constituting the Faculty of Arts in the year 1959 as part of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University (hereinafter “Šafárik University”) in Košice, the seat in Prešov, and its inclusion within Prešov University in the year 1997, Šafárik University management made a decisive step to re-establishing a faculty of humanities by having submitted to Šafárik University Academic Board a document on 9th June 2006 entitled *Amendment to Long-term Prospects of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice for the Years 2004 to 2010*. The University management clearly presented in this document their opinion in favour of setting up the Faculty of Arts at Šafárik University .

The rise of the Faculty of Arts at Šafárik University in Košice had been preceded by the establishment of the Institute of Philological and Social Scholarship in the year 2005 as a research and teaching centre with university-wide scope of performance. The Institute developed its activities primarily on the basis of the then existing research and teaching potential of the Faculty of Public Administration, Department of Languages at Šafárik University , i.e. the potential, which was transformed into the Institute of Philological and Social Scholarship at Šafárik University .

30 university study programmes have been accredited, out of which 4 Bc single-subject study programmes with a possibility of proceeding into MA study programmes, 14 inter-disciplinary Bc study programmes with a possibility of proceeding into MA study programmes, 3 PhD study programmes (*British and US Studies, History of Philosophy, Social Psychology and Psychology of Work*). The Institute of Philological and Social Scholarship at Šafárik University cooperated with the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Šafárik University, in the preparation and implementation of inter-disciplinary study programmes of the study branches at both of these faculties. The Institute prepared all the materials required for the accreditation of the new faculty. On 13th December 2006, the Accreditation Board of the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the rise of the Faculty of Arts at Šafárik University. On 14th December 2006, Šafárik University Rector submitted a motion to Šafárik University Academic Senate to approve the establishment of the Faculty of Arts at Šafárik University. The Šafárik University Academic Senate approved the emergence of the new faculty. Prof. h. c. Prof. JUDr. Vladimír Babčák, CSc., Šafárik University Rector, constituted the Faculty of Arts at Šafárik University as of 1st January 2007.

After almost three centuries, from the time of Universitas Cassoviensis (in the period between 1959 and 1996 the Faculty of Arts, Šafárik University, had its seat in Prešov), the Faculty of Arts was re-established once again. Šafárik University completed in this way its structure of classical university educational model.

The newly founded faculty started to write the first chapter of its academic life. This shall predominantly be created by the faculty academic staff. Apart from the quality of research, the faculty wishes to contribute to cultivating inter-faculty communication, communication with Šafárik University management, with the municipality of Košice and its institutions, and with broad cultural and academic milieu in Slovakia and abroad.

## I. Present State of Affairs and Objectives in the Field of Education

Brief history of the Faculty of Arts, Šafárik University in Košice, continues in education the outcomes of education at the Institute of Philological and Social Scholarship, Šafárik University in Košice and the Institute of Humanities at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Šafárik University in Košice. The Faculty of Arts, Šafárik University, has had 16 inter-disciplinary study programmes in the Bc part of the study accredited, as well as 5 single-subject study programmes of the Bc part of the study, 14 single-subject MA study programmes and 3 PhD study programmes.

### Prospects for the Years 2007 – 2011

- A. Exploit both formal and informal possibilities for the support of cultivated, proactive, demanding, and stimulating academic milieu.
- B. Lay emphasis on the ethical dimension of teaching.
- C. Participate in the process of reform of the system of education in the environment of changing individual and social priorities of training the experts for the milieu of knowledge society based on the formation and exploitation of information systems.
- D. Create personal, physical, and technical preconditions for high-quality teaching, actively exploit the possibilities of operational programmes advertised by the Government of the Slovak Republic, specifically the *Operational Programme of Education*.
- E. Document and defend eligibility of accreditations awarded within complex accreditation.
- F. Cooperate with the University management and that of other faculties in planning and implementing teaching as to technical equipment of premises and staff; develop cooperation with the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Šafárik University in Košice, in setting up and developing high quality of inter-disciplinary study and training for teaching academic subjects in teaching profession.
- G. Cooperate with the University Library at Šafárik University in providing study sources; support the publication of electronic versions of university textbooks.
- H. Support and encourage students to being active in their exploitation of educational chances and to self-study.
- I. In developing the accredited study programmes and raising these to a higher level of quality depart from the feedback in the relationship between teachers and students and make use of the outcomes of evaluation of teaching by students.
- J. Encourage the teachers to interest in evaluation of teaching by the students, to processing and constructive use of student feedback in teaching.
- K. Create human, physical, and technical conditions for health-disadvantaged students.

- L. Develop cooperation with universities both in the Slovak Republic and abroad, cooperate with the University management in providing teacher and student mobility to the universities in the EU within Socrates / Erasmus programmes.
- M. Offer the students lectures by renowned national and international experts.
- N. Develop cooperation with practice, offer life-long education courses in developing language competences and life skills.

## II. Present Condition and Objectives of Research

The research potential of the Faculty of Arts, Šafárik University in Košice, consists of 9 professors, 10 associate professors (docents) 30 senior assistants, 10 assistants, 2 lecturers, 14 research workers, 16 internal PhD students, and 22 external PhD students. International cooperation and research projects within APVV, VEGA, KEGA, bilateral projects between Šafárik University in Košice and University in Groningen, the Netherlands, and the EU projects create a convenient point of departure for the development of research of the new Faculty of Arts at Šafárik University.

### Objectives for the Years 2007 – 2011

Development of research at the Faculty of Arts, Šafárik University, shall inevitably follow the basic ambition of the University – to acquire the status of research university. This basic strategic task shall be implemented while observing the following substantial points of departure for and objectives of research:

#### A. Initial theses:

- a) Observe ethical principles of research.
- b) Improve the quality of research and encourage relationship between research and teaching; create the conditions for a more intense interconnection of theoretical research and implementation of its results in teaching by means of modern teaching methods and Technologies of education, paying due respect to specific nature of individual branches and the respective interdisciplinary aspects.
- c) Develop original and creative research; develop competitiveness of the Faculty in both national and international research environments

#### B. Pay due respect to the idea that the contemporary research direction has two – seemingly incompatible, but in fact complementary and equivalent – streams: a) toward specification, b) toward integration of sciences. This is a dialectic feedback between the individual and the general, in which it appears inevitable to define the dominant principle of the above relationship in respect of the natural character and effectiveness of the respective academic field (by way of example, one might give a tendency toward specificity in literary-theoretical interpretation of literary texts and a tendency to universality in looking for penetrating sets between the theoretical-methodological hotbed of more specific and abstract sciences).

- differentiate the levels of the specific and the general in both directions of acquiring;
- increase the quality of research by our researchers becoming members of international research teams and organisational structures (boards of editors, reviewer commissions, membership in international societies and bodies, and the like);
- to penetrate more intensely into both international and national academic agencies (APVV, APVT, VEGA, KEGA, etc.) with methodological and theoretical initiatives;
- develop research cooperation with scientific and medical branches at Šafárik University, especially within centres of excellence (psychology, text studies, phonetics, general linguistics, literary theory, philosophy- here mainly axiology, semiotics, neurophysiology of speech, cybernetics, theory of information, theory of communication, acoustics, computer analysis of signal, etc.);
- concentrate predominantly on writing and publishing of scholarly papers and representative monographs in world languages;

- prepare the projects of phonetic laboratory, psychological laboratory, and a teaching and training unit of the Institute of Translation and Interpretation at the Faculty of Arts, Šafárik University; prepare a marketing algorithm for the implementation of this project in the new building of the Faculty;
- C. Intensify the Faculty potency in respect of its capacity to guarantee all the levels of qualification growth from our own resources against the background of top-quality research teams (PhD study, academic procedures of associate-professorship and appointment proceedings for full-professorship).
- create the preconditions for high-quality guaranteeing of PhD study in new branches (literary scholarship, the Slovak language, theory and history of Slovak literature, general linguistics, and prospectively in some others) and continuously increase the quality in the existing branches (British and US studies, history of philosophy, social psychology and psychology of work) and for high-quality guaranteeing of academic procedures of associate-professorship and appointment proceedings for full-professorship;
  - create the preconditions for acquiring authorisation to carrying out academic procedures of associate-professorship and appointment proceedings for full-professorship (in the fields of British and US studies, psychology, literary scholarship, history of philosophy, social work).
- D. Observe the well-known contrast between the subject pertaining to national history and those of a more universal character and their research topics, which should also be observed in scientometric indicators of research work.
- follow internal evaluation of individual units guaranteeing research and education in the respective branches of a more specific and more universal type and stimulate evaluation as an ongoing process;
  - improve research by more intense penetration into international and top national publication bodies and by developing academically dominant genres (monographs, research papers);
  - improve the quality of research activities in the entire arch of academic communication (author, text, reader), thus also in quotations and responses.
- E. Increase the proportion of research output in the overall output of the Faculty (while making use of the internationally codified criteria of research effectiveness in humanities and social sciences).
- strive to achieve a permanently equivalent relationship between research and education, guaranteeing quality and originality of educational activities at the Faculty.
- F. Create the conditions and free academic environment for increasing the level of Professional qualification (defences of PhD theses, associate professorship, proceedings for appointing full professors).
- G. Support student research and artistic activity..
- H. Look for possibilities of employing the acquired research outcomes in life (e.g. in creating textbooks, dictionaries of various kinds, offer of interpreting literary texts, improving appreciation of artistic artefacts, offer of language courses for increasing language competences of both national and international customers); protect intellectual property in applying research outcomes.
- create preconditions for a more intense penetration of teachers, researchers, and PhD students into both nation-wide and international teams, specializing in practical outputs of research also by increasing their language competences, among other things.

### **III. Present Condition and Prospects in the Field of Material Infrastructure and Premises**

#### **Present Condition**

The Faculty of Arts at Šafárik University resides in the premises of the rented building at Petzvalova Street and partly in the premises of University buildings situated at Moyzesova Street No. 50 and Popradská Street No. 66.

#### **Chief Prospects for the Years 2008 – 2011**

- A) support any employee activities aimed at formation of projects, grants, and other supplementary activities, which will exert favourable influence on the economic situation of the Faculty and its material and technical equipment.;
- B) be consistent in employing the principle of redistribution of subsidy funds according to output in teaching and research;
- C) form the effective and operational structure of educational, research, and operational units at the University;
- D) create a cultivated academic milieu at the Faculty;
- E) create the conditions for a wider and better employment of the Academic Information System (AIS);
- F) modernize technical equipment of auditoriums and make the AIS and the Internet in the Faculty premises readily available to students;
- G) support target-oriented investment into software products and e-learning support of study;
- H) develop the Faculty library stock in cooperation with the Šafárik University Library.

## **IV. Present Condition and Prospects in the Field of International Relations**

### **Present Condition**

The Faculty of Arts employees develop cooperation with international universities in the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, France (long-time cooperation with the University in Groningen, the Netherlands in the implementation of 11 bilateral research projects, with the West Bohemian University (ZČU) in Pilsen in the implementation of 1 SOCRATES agreement, with Marc Bloch University in Strasbourg, coordinating the National Programme of Teaching Translation and Interpretation at universities in the Slovak Republic in the post-graduate form implemented under the auspices of the Council of Europe). They are engaged in international organisations, such as EUPHA (European Public Health Association), UNIPREV (United Prevention Association), ESSE (European Society for the Study of English), International Society for Engineering Education, International Society of Phonetic Sciences, in the International Commission for Phonetics and Phonology of Slavonic Languages with the International Committee of Slavists.

The Faculty of Arts employees are members of 15 international organisations, relevant for the study branches and research projects and hold significant positions in 4 international organisations.

### **Chief Prospects for the Years 2008 – 2011**

Our intentions in the field of international relations depart from the membership of the Slovak Republic in the European Union, which is a context leading the performance of this Faculty toward internationalisation of all its fields of performance. ,

- A) Contractual international cooperation:
  - Preserve and develop all the existing programmes activated in individual departments of the Faculty of Arts;
  - Set up new programmes;
  - support short-term (including reciprocal) lecturing, study, and research sojourns.
  
- B) Extra-contractual international cooperation:
  - Develop international cooperation on the level of departments and the Faculty and its specialized units in teaching and research;
  - Support active participation of PhD students at international academic ventures;
  - Invite international experts for lecturing sojourns and short-term affiliations.
  
- C) Support acquisition of grants, which will enable to solve the existing deficit in funding the trips abroad and sojourns of international visitors at this Faculty
  
- D) Increase and reinforce present and future membership of the Faculty of Arts in international scholarly organisations.
  
- E) Support international cooperation by employing updated information technologies (e.g. by televising lectures).
  
- F) Develop cooperation with non-governmental institutions in arranging the needs of specialised units (phonetic and interpretation laboratories, libraries of language departments), e.g. British Council, Goethe Institut, Institute Francais.



- G) Create the conditions and publicize the capacity of the Faculty to admit international students.
- H) Devote attention to students of Slavonic studies abroad and arrange for them adequate forms of academic communication.

## SWOT Analysis – Education

### Strengths

- plentiful offer of study programmes,
- high success rate in obtaining accreditation is a favourable indicator of personnel potency at the Faculty in teaching and research,
- favourable motivation potential,
- profound interest in the study in single-subject study programmes,
- offer of inter-faculty study programmes (a significant contribution to systematic use of opportunities at the University),
- setting up still another attractive study programme of translation and interpretation,
- ongoing process of implementation of the AIS into the Faculty life (a precondition for creating system and order).

### Weaknesses

- differing levels of mastering and using the AIS (due to the lack of experience or understanding),
- scattered personnel and premises,
- absence of „home“ not merely for teaching, but also for the efficient Dean’s Office, which is especially relevant for the student affairs department,
- occasional problems in personnel coverage of study programmes of planned teaching,
- emergence of difficulties in observing the rules, applications, and deadlines..

### Opportunities

- observe main recommendations and principles in the field of university education as formulated in the Bologna Declaration of European Ministers of Education on the European Environment of University Education,
- make use of the experience gathered so far in the process of accreditation and re-accreditation; take into consideration the need for creating opportunities for individual self-study, for individual active work of students with national and foreign, book and journal resources in designing new study programmes,
- make use of the expertise and artistic potential of the staff to make the study at the Faculty highly competent, professional, gratifying, and encouraging,
- create opportunities for brainstorming,
- make use of suggestions of the Faculty teachers and students alike,
- support and encourage student and teacher mobility,
- create opportunities and raise funds for engaging the Slovak Academy of Sciences experts and other professionals into the process of teaching,
- encourage students to engage into student research and artistic activity, create for them opportunities for presenting their professional and artistic achievements,
- support the establishment of accredited courses of further and life-long learning,
- create personnel, material, and organisational preconditions and opportunities for the preparation and implementation of professional, pedagogical-psychological, and teaching field training programmes for students of academic subjects teaching in the MA form of study,
- develop cooperation with practice, e.g. by advertising offers of activities available at the Faculty of Arts, Šafárik University,
- create for the students opportunities for feed-back assessment of teaching on the annual basis,
- support the ethical dimension of study at the Faculty and academic life as such,
- create a functional system of rights and obligations of university teachers and students,

- improve the performance of the Department of Student Affairs by making use of the experience gathered so far and of incentives of the Faculty teachers and students,
- raise the time table preparation to professional level,
- arrange trouble-free operation of the computer network and the AIS,
- support and appraise competent pedagogical performance of university teachers (e.g. by the Dean's Award for Achievements in Teaching and the like).

### **Threats**

- slow pace in making new premises of the Faculty available,
- lack of funds for inevitable personnel structuring of some of the departments and the related overload of university teachers, imposing limitations on high-quality continuous research.

### **SO Strategy (making use of strengths for gaining competitive advantage)**

- cooperation with practice,
- offer of certified programmes of further education and life-long learning.

### **WO Strategy (overcoming the weaknesses by making use of opportunities)**

- perseverant use of the criterion of credit hours in developing individual departments.

### **ST Strategy (making use of strengths for facing the threats)**

- systematic efforts in preparing the future premises of the Faculty.

### **WT Strategy (minimizing the costs and managing the threats)**

- personal liability of department chairpersons and teachers for failing to observe one's working duties and legislative standards.

## SWOT Analysis – Research and PhD Study

### Strengths

- the KISH Centre of Excellence,
- unification of research and teaching on all three levels of education,
- significant publication and research outputs of the Faculty,
- high success rate in obtaining grants in the Slovak Republic,
- high interest in PhD studies on the part of MA study graduates,
- increasing success rate of PhD study.

### Weaknesses

- imbalance in engaging the departments into international research cooperation,
- thematically broad and organisationally scattered research,
- imbalance quality of the outcomes of research,
- low degree of interdisciplinary character of research,
- lack of journalistic sources,
- technical and instrument infrastructure of research not yet constructed,
- insufficient presentation of research outcomes in peer-reviewed papers published in professional journals,
- small number of responses to research in peer-reviewed papers published in professional journals.

### Opportunities

- creating another Centre of Excellence in the field of philological research,
- engagement into both international and national (the National Agency for the Support of Research and Education - APVV) grant research projects,
- creating interdisciplinary character of research.

### Threats

- smaller volume of funds for basic research,
- policy of financial motivation of internal PhD students is hardly motivating.

### SO Strategy (making use of strengths for gaining competitive advantage)

- cooperate in preparing high-quality research projects with the Šafárik University Project Administration Unit,
- stabilise top-quality graduates of PhD study,
- increase the proportion of PhD students in their engagement in research projects and support their publication activities,
- organise international scholarly conferences in close cooperation with the Institute of Translation and Interpretation at Šafárik University.

### WO Strategy (overcoming the weaknesses by making use of opportunities)

- concentrate on constructing instrument infrastructure (phonetic, interpretation, and psychological laboratories) for improving the quality of research and education,
- create sources of academic information,
- support the emergence of centres of excellence as a means of concentrating the research.

### ST Strategy (making use of strengths for facing the threats)

- stabilise top-quality employees by motivating them,
- increase independence of research from state subsidies.

### WT Strategy (minimizing the costs and managing the threats)

- engage into the 7th Framework Schedule and take more prominent positions within the APVV programmes.

## SWOT – International Relations

### Strengths

- experienced and erudite research and teaching staff with multilateral international anchoring,
- existing numerous and productive international relations, agreements, and contacts,
- favourable atmosphere for the new Faculty and its attractiveness in academic and teaching milieu in international, national, and university contexts.

### Weaknesses

- brief history of the Faculty and the resulting limitations of full-valued engagement of the Faculty in international contractual relations in research and education,
- temporarily limited portfolio of the Faculty offer of study branches, which would be of interest to international partners.

### Opportunities

- coordination of efforts from inside with the opportunities available in international institutions.

### Threats

- the ever decreasing volume of funds for the implementation of the existing international agreements within individual study programmes.

### SO Strategy (making use of strengths for gaining competitive advantage)

- constituting international research teams,
- reinforcing the theoretical-methodological basis of research at the Faculty.

### WO Strategy (overcoming the weaknesses by making use of opportunities)

- create the conditions for constituting the study branches, which would increase attractiveness of study at the Faculty.

### ST Strategy (making use of strengths for facing the threats)

- constitute the study of Slovak as a foreign language for international students, teachers, researchers, employees in culture, and translators of Slavonic and Slovakistic study and research orientation.

### WT Strategy (minimizing the costs and managing the threats)

- engagement into activities in the field of life-long learning on both national and international levels.

## **SWOT Analysis – Material Infrastructure and Premises**

### **Strengths**

- optical network,
- electronic security system of building protection,
- a chance to define and determine the rules in respect of the rise of the Faculty,
- high degree of cooperation and mutual understanding of the management on the level of both Faculty and the University.

### **Weaknesses**

- Faculty premises scattered,
- working in the premises, which are not in the ownership of the University,
- insufficient access of students to the Internet in the Faculty premises,
- insufficient material and technological equipment of departments,
- emergency condition of sanitary premises in the building at Petzvalova Street.

### **Opportunities**

- calls for submitting the projects in research and education,
- opportunity on the part of the Faculty to choose from among prospective employees for the respective positions.

### **Threats**

- lack of funds for stabilisation of the Faculty staff,
- possible increasing number of research and teaching employees exceeding the financial possibilities of the Faculty.

### **SO Strategy (making use of strengths for gaining competitive advantage)**

- engaging into calls for submitting the projects in the areas outside research and education,
- engagement into the created system of offer of life-long education or preparing a separate offer.

### **ST Strategy (making use of strengths for facing the threats)**

- defining the effectively functioning internal rules of the Faculty.

### **WO Strategy (overcoming the weaknesses by making use of opportunities)**

- cooperation in effective reconstruction of the future premises of the Faculty,
- distribution of subsidies according to output in research and education, making use of other sources of funding,
- placing the computers connected to the Internet network (the so-called „kiosks“) and making them freely available to students,
- equipment of departments, units, and auditoriums,
- reconstruction of sanitary premises.

### **WT Strategy (minimizing the costs and managing the threats)**

- making use of the opportunity to create wage fund from several sources,
- creating a functional and effective organisational structure of the Faculty.

## **Development of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University from the Viewpoint of Its Faculty of Arts**

- Create the conditions for well-balanced qualitative development of all the faculties as an inevitable precondition for achieving the strategic objective of the University to become a university of research type,
- preparing the time schedule of teaching at the level of University,
- managing the occupation of auditoriums and other premises of individual faculties from the position of the University,
- apply consistent principles of distributing subsidy funds according to output in research and education,
- create standards for distributing the Money from the development fund,
- enforce the regulations of the Law Act on the Slovak Language as a State Language in undergraduate instruction of students of the study programmes involved in preparing the teachers of academic subjects.

In Košice on 26th November 2007

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Chairperson of the Academic Senate  
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Prof. PhDr. Ján Gbúr, CSc.,  
Dean  
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