



**American University of Nigeria (AUN)**

## **AU/AUN ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Regarding AU & AUN & the Consultancy:**

- American University (AU) in Washington, D.C. and American University of Nigeria (AUN) in Yola, Nigeria are separate institutions of higher education, with independent governance, accreditation, programs, and budget.
- AU & AUN signed an agreement in December 2003 whereby AU would provide consulting services to help AUN establish an American-style university in Nigeria, providing education and scholarship benefiting the people of West Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- The support for a thriving higher education institution in a developing nation is consistent with the values of AU and its principal founder, the United Methodist Church.
- Information, progress, and activities of AUN as a higher education institution are posted on the AUN [Web site](#).

### **The AU consultancy has included assisting AUN in specific areas such as:**

#### **Governance and Management Structure**

- Recruiting principal officers and deans;
  - Helping to establish a governance structure;
  - Developing a student marketing plan;
  - Creating financial, budget management, and endowment investment strategies;
  - Planning and implementing an information technology system;
  - Developing student programs and services;
  - Setting up a human resources structure with staff policies and procedures, and assisting in recruiting and training staff.
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- AU created a liaison office in Washington, D.C. in 2004 to coordinate the provision of AU's expertise and consulting services to meet the needs of AUN as it established programs, services, and organizational infrastructure.
  - AU has assisted in structuring the search for the AUN management team, including the AUN president; vice president of academic affairs; vice president of finance and administration; vice president of university relations; dean of arts and sciences; dean of entrepreneurial studies; dean of the school of information technology, director of student affairs and director of human resources.
  - AUN's Board of Trustees was established in October 2004; it includes Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel laureate; it has 16 members (plus AUN's president as an ex-officio member) and meets three times per year; it is the highest authority of the university and is responsible for administrative and legal oversight.
  - Bettina Sawhill Espe, is the AUN interim president and vice president for finance and administration.

### **Academic Support**

- Setting up faculty employment processes and manuals;
- Advising in procurement of lab and instructional equipment;
- Establishing library collections and development;
- On-site training for AUN faculty;
- Monitoring academic and curriculum standards;
- Developing, reviewing, and evaluating graduate programs;
- Setting up cultural exchange programs and distance education;
- Establishing a research and policy center;
- Developing a fundraising and alumni relations program.

### **Infrastructure Planning Support:**

- AU has assisted with the creation of a master plan for the AUN campus and the master plan shows a comprehensive blueprint of academic buildings, hostels, and other infrastructure, which will guide future development and growth.
- AU has assisted AUN in setting up the IT infrastructure for wireless computer capability.

### **Campus Progress Has Included:**

- Groundbreaking was held in Yola in October 2004.
- AUN welcomed its first class in September 2005.
- First graduation was held in May 2009; Archbishop Desmond Tutu, member of the AUN Board of Trustees, gave the commencement address.
- Entering class had 124 students; 90 graduated in May 2009.
- Approximately 1,100 students are currently enrolled.
- Academic departments currently include the School of Arts and Sciences; the School of Business and Entrepreneurship; and the School of Information Technology and Communications.
- AUN plans to begin the process of regional accreditation by the appropriate United States accreditation authority—to earn the standard of educational quality as affirmation of AUN’s mission, purpose, and stability.
- Eleven buildings have been built or renovated on the Yola campus, including a University Center and canteen, eight residence halls, and two academic buildings; groundbreaking for new library was held in 2008; twelve new buildings are under construction.
- AUN has begun to pursue and receive research and grants, including grants from the International Food Policy Research Institute; the MacArthur Foundation; the Oracle Corporation; the U.S. State Department; and USAID.