



American University of Nigeria (AUN)

AU/AUN ACHIEVEMENTS

Regarding AU & AUN & the Consultancy:

- American University (AU) in Washington DC 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 a consultancy agreement in December 2003 to 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.
- Substantial metrics of progress for AUN as a legitimate higher education institution and a timeline of AUN's development 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 assisted in recruiting and training staff.

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.
- Liaison office created in 2004 at AU in Washington to coordinate the provision of AU's expertise and consultation to meet the needs of AUN as it established programs, services and organizational infrastructure.

- AU has assisted with recruiting 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 Board of Trustees was established in October 2004; it has 20 members and meets 3 times per year; it is the highest authority of the university and is responsible for administrative and legal oversight.
- The AUN president, Dr. Michael Smith, is the chief executive officer.

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 in setting up of the IT infrastructure to enable the entire AUN campus to be wired for wireless computer capability.

Campus Progress Has Included:

- Groundbreaking held in Yola in October 2004;
- AUN welcomed its first class in September 2005;
- First graduation to be held May 2009;
- Entering class had 124 students; 68 from that entering class are on track to graduate in May 2009, while 30 students from that entering class will graduate after May 2009;
- Ninety-eight of first entering class still enrolled, with 90 average credits earned by those retained from first entering class;
- Approximately 920 students currently enrolled;
- Academic departments currently include the School of Arts and Sciences; School of Business and Entrepreneurship; School of Information Technology and Communications;
- AUN plans to soon 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;
- Seven buildings have been built or renovated on the Yola campus, including a University Center and canteen, four residence halls, and two academic buildings; groundbreaking for new library held this year (April 30, 2008);
- AUN has begun to pursue and receive research and other grants, including grants from the International Food Policy Research Institute; the MacArthur Foundation; and the Oracle Corporation.