

Helping Students Learn to Learn Helping Students Succeed A Faculty Retreat



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ARMENIA

August 27, 2013

Welcome and Review of Agenda



Welcome and review of agenda

Opening, Bruce Boghosian, *President*

What is our **mission** and how do I help promote it?

General Education: What is it and how does it fit into my work? Catherine Buon, *Associate Dean for General Education*

Freshman English: If this is not an English language course what is it? Melissa Brown, *Program Chair, BA in English & Communications*

What to expect? AUA's First Freshman Class: Who are our students and how can I help them succeed?

10-minute coffee and stretch break (Repeat: 10 minutes)

What to expect (continued) and challenges?

What is the Center for Student Success? Garine Palandjian, *Student Services Coordinator*

Logistics (Communication - Syllabus, Office hours, accessibility, Resources, Help)

Lunch and **Discussion with Provost** Dennis Leavens

Opening



Bruce Boghosian
President

What is our mission?



As an institution of higher learning, the American University of Armenia provides teaching, research, and service programs that prepare students and enable faculty and researchers to address the needs of Armenia and the surrounding region for sustainable development, in a setting that values and develops academic excellence, free inquiry, integrity, scholarship, leadership, and service to society.

What is our mission?



Question for discussion:

How might AUA's mission statement guide teaching?
Learning?

Mission Statement:

*As an institution of higher learning, the American University of Armenia provides **teaching, research, and service** programs that **prepare students and enable faculty and researchers to address the needs of Armenia** and the surrounding region for **sustainable development**, in a setting that values and develops **academic excellence, free inquiry, integrity, scholarship, leadership, and service to society**.*

What is our mission?



Follow up question:

What kind of undergraduate experience do we want students to have?

Mission Statement:

*As an institution of higher learning, the American University of Armenia provides **teaching, research, and service** programs that **prepare students and enable faculty and researchers to address the needs of Armenia** and the surrounding region for **sustainable development**, in a setting that values and develops **academic excellence, free inquiry, integrity, scholarship, leadership, and service to society.***

General Education: What is it and how does it fit into my work?



Catherine Buon
Associate Dean for General Education

Freshman English: If this is not an English language course what is it?



Melissa Brown

Program Chair, BA in English & Communications
Freshman English Coordinator

What to expect?



Question:

What do you (think you) know about the incoming freshman class?

Who are our students? A snapshot



Approximately 300 conditional and full admits

From the following countries:

Armenia

Canada

Georgia

Netherlands

Lebanon

Russia

Syria

Kazakhstan

Iran

Argentina

United States

Who are our students? A snapshot



Year of Birth:

1980 (33 years old)
1981 (32 years old)
1984 (29 years old)
1986 (27 years old)
1991 (22 years old)
1992 (21 years old)
1993 (20 years old)
1994 (19 years old)
1995 (18 years old)
1996 (17 years old)
1997 (16 years old)

Who are our students?



12% of admitted students are non RoA citizens

51% of admitted students are female

98% of admits **were born after** the 1988 Armenian earthquake

95% of admits have never lived in a world without Wikis (started in 1994)

Most admits never lived in a world without the Internet

What to expect and challenges?



Question for discussion:

What are the differences between teaching graduate and undergraduate courses?

Break



10-minute coffee and stretch break
Repeat: 10 minutes

What to expect? The first day of class.



Five Things to do on the First Day of Class

Things not to do on the First Day of Class

What to expect? Beyond the First Day.



What are some of the challenges we can anticipate beyond the first day of class?

What is the Center for Student Success?



Garine Palandjian
Student Services Coordinator

Logistics: Communication



Syllabus – Communicating upfront content, measurement (assessment) methods, expectations.

Office hours and accessibility

Question: Do I have to hold office hours?

Answer: Yes

Logistics: Upcoming workshops



Introduction to Moodle for faculty (organized by Papazian Library): Thu/Aug 29, 10 AM, 207E PAB

October 14 – 15, 2013: Two-day workshop: Teaching and Learning with Professor James Lang (October 14 is a faculty in-service day. There are no classes this day.)

Where can you turn for help, resources and support?



Colleagues

Program Chair

Dean

Associate Dean for General Education

Director of Accreditation

Student Services Coordinator

- * Online resources, especially: iro.aua.am/faculty-workshops/
- * One on one (or group) support

Lunch and Discussion with Provost



Dennis Leavens
Provost

In Akian Gallery, 4th Floor, PAB