

FOREWORD

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Is it a hopeless challenge in private regional colleges to deal with scientific research, when state participation in the private high education sector converges to zero, and many of state owned small schools must face to cruel questions of budgetary survival, too?

There are two usual answers to the above question. The first and simplest answer is no, the school must provide perfect teaching, that's all. That is the answer of persons dealing strictly with financial equilibrium of institutions. However there are general accreditation requirements, which are urging the appropriate scientific research work in the field of teaching of the institution. As in small schools this research is not in direct relation with the budgetary equilibrium; the financial management often ignores the necessity of it and leaves this activity as a "hobby" of staff members. The second answer is the opinion of academic staff and management; there is an absolute need for research work, as they consider that no one is capable to teach effectively without a heavy scientific background in the field of the teaching.

The above two answers seems to be in contradiction one to other; however both of them are partially true, at least. Providing perfect teaching activity means the teaching staff must be absolutely competent in the field of teaching and even it has to have much more widened horizon in the special field, that is to say the staff shall be an active participant in the related scientific research work.

Consequently the scientific research work should have to contribute to the financial equilibrium of the school. To maintain a continuous research activity, the financial benefits of which may be a considerable part of the school, requires a mutual consent between the owner of school and the academic staff. The staffs have to be interested and well motivated in the successful research projects and the owner has its responsibility to provide the staff with reliable research work. The pre-financing of the research work shall be initialised in a flourishing financial period of the school.

The current financial state in the private sector of the Hungarian higher education is more or less catastrophic, and even it is far from the ideal one in the state owned sector. Despite of those hard conditions our staff members, our national and international partners are deeply convinced in the importance of scientific research work and publish their latest results in our paper.

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Budapest, the 15th January 2014.