

“LUCIAN BLAGA” UNIVERSITY – SIBIU

THE CHARTER

**OF
“LUCIAN BLAGA” UNIVERSITY – SIBIU**

**SIBIU
MAY, 2004**

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PREAMBLE

In the city of Sibiu, higher education goes back to the 18th century, in the form of a School of Theology (1786). In 1844, a Law Academy was added to the existing theological and pedagogical colleges, founded by the local German population; it functioned up to the year 1887.

A new beginning for the higher education in Sibiu came in 1940, when *King Ferdinand* University of Cluj found temporary refuge here following the *Vienna Dictate*, which granted the northern half of Transylvania to Hungary (1940-1945).

A quarter of a century later, the Faculty of Philology and History was founded in Sibiu, as a branch of *Babeş-Bolyai* University of Cluj. In 1971, the Faculty of Administrative Law was set up with a line of study that was unique in Romania. The Faculty of Wood Processing was set up in 1972, as a branch of the University of Braşov.

Following a nation-wide restructuring of Romanian higher education, the academic evolution of Sibiu was consolidated through a complete re-organization and the founding of a third faculty. As a result, the Sibiu Institute of Higher Education was established in 1976; it included the following faculties and specializations: the Faculty of Philology and History (*Foreign Languages and Literatures and History*); the Faculty of Administrative Law (*Administrative Law*); the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (*Machine-Building Technology*).

In the 1980s, the dictatorial regime implemented a policy of dismantling the Faculties of Philology and History, and of Administrative Law; these two were liquidated by the late '80s. Only the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering survived, renamed the Institute for Subengineers, being the Sibiu campus of the Polytechnic University of Cluj-Napoca.

Following the December 1989 Romanian Revolution, the University of Sibiu was founded by Government Decision no. 225/1990, of 5 March 1990; it then included five faculties: 1) Letters, History, and Law; 2) Medicine; 3) Textile and Food Processing Technology; 4) Engineering; and 5) Sciences. The University of Sibiu was expanded in 1991, when the Theological Institute of Sibiu joined the University as the Faculty of Theology. The same year saw the start of the College for Information Technology.

On 12 May 1995, the University of Sibiu was named after the illustrious Romanian poet and philosopher Lucian Blaga.

Currently, "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu has ten Faculties and one College: 1) the Faculty of Theology; 2) the Faculty of Letters and Arts; 3) the Faculty of History and Patrimony; 4) the Faculty of Law; 5) the Faculty of Engineering; 6) the Faculty of Journalism; 7) the Faculty of Medicine; 8) the Faculty of Sciences; 9) the Faculty of Economics; 10) the Faculty of Agriculture, Food Processing, and Environment Protection; and the College for Information Technology.

CHAPTER I

GENERAL DISPOSITIONS

Art. 1. “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu is a state institution of higher education, a legal entity, enjoying autonomy under the provisions of the Romanian Constitution, the Law of Education, and the present Charter.

Art. 2. Within the social context of Romania, the identity of “Lucian Blaga” University is established as follows:

- a) Name: “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu (LBUS);
- b) Flag, emblem, seal, ceremonial garb (gown and cap), as ordered by the University Senate;
- c) Main building: Bd. Victoriei nr. 10, Sibiu 550024, Romania;
- d) University Day is celebrated every year on 12 May with scientific, cultural, and sporting events.

Art. 3. The University Charter is the document establishing the mission of the University, the academic principles, its objectives, structure and organization. It incorporates the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; it adheres to the “Magna Charta of European Universities”, signed in Bologna; and is drawn up in accordance with the Romanian Constitution and the current Romanian legislation.

Art. 4. (1) “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, incorporates: Faculties, Colleges, Departments, Chairs, Research and Production Centres; it can include professional, cultural, or sports associations, as well as foundations.

(2) “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu has its own buildings; its yearly budget is constituted from funds allotted by the Ministry of Education and Research as well as from non-governmental resources.

Art. 5. (1) The academic community is made up of the teaching staff, consulting and visiting professors, researchers, undergraduate and graduate students as well as honorary members of the teaching staff, Honorary Doctors of LBUS, Honorary Members of the Senate, Honorary Partners of the Faculties, Honorary Members of the Faculty Boards etc.

(2) The LBUS community also includes auxiliary, non-teaching, and research staff.

(3) The university community ensures for its members labour conditions in accordance with the contractual provisions undertaken by the University.

(4) The University protects the human and the professional dignity of its members.

Art. 6. Academic autonomy is based upon the provisions of the Constitution, the Law of Education, and the present Charter; it includes the decisional autonomy of the University in its relation with the Government in matters concerning its own structure, the organization, programming, execution, and modernization of the educational process as well as research, the running of its administrative and financial structures, as well as academic relations with Romanian and foreign universities.

Art. 7. The members of the academic community enjoy the right to acquire, develop, and exchange knowledge without any limitations, free of political, religious or any other kind of interference.

Art. 8. (1) The campus includes all the buildings and lots of the University as well as other facilities used by the University, regardless of the legal title that regulates their use.

(2) Exception is made from the above provision in the case of buildings and facilities owned by the Ministry of Health, or by other ministries with their own medical facilities where state medical higher education is organized.

(3) University grounds are inviolable and are protected under current legislation. Law-enforcement agencies may enter the University grounds only with the permission or at the request of the Rector and of the Senate (if the Senate can be consulted in time). Student hostels are protected similarly. Law-enforcement agencies are allowed to undertake raids and/or other routine operations only with the permission of the Rector or of the Bureau of the Senate. Firemen and paramedics are allowed in in case of emergency.

(4) Except in emergency situations, the access of LBUS members to University grounds shall not be forbidden or restricted, including the right to picket. The Senate can impose limitations to access during night time, school vacations, and legal holidays.

Art. 9. The Estate of the University is constituted from legal ownership rights over real estate and other property that constitute the material basis of the University, from rights to other revenues, copyrights as well as other legal titles.

Art. 10. (1) Based on the provisions of the present Charter, specific regulations concerning the organization and functioning of the University shall be drawn up which will be included in the Annex, forming an integral part of the present Charter. These are the following:

U.L.I.B.S.

THE STRUCTURE OF “LUCIAN BLAGA” UNIVERSITY – SIBIU 2004-2008

Facultati – Faculties

Colegii Universitare – Colleges

Colegiul de Medicina – The College of Medicine

Centre de Cercetare Stiintifica – Scientific Research Centres

Departament I.D. – Department for Distance Education

Senat – The Senate

Comisii Senat – Senate Committees

Consiliu de Administratie – Board of Directors

Birou Senat – Bureau of the Senate

Secretar Șef Universitate – Registrar

Rector – Rector

Consilieri – Counsellors

Prorector Probleme de Invatamant – Prorector for Education

Prorector Probleme Economice si Strategie – Prorector for Economics and Strategy

Prorector Probleme Juridice si Etica Profesionala – Prorector for Legal Matters and Professional Ethics

Prorector Probleme Studentesti și IDD – Prorector for Student Affairs and Distance Education

Secretar Stiintific – Scientific Secretary

Director General Administrativ – Chief Administrative Officer

Director Financiar Contabil – Chief Financial Officer

Departamentul pentru Pregatirea Personalului Didactic – Department for Teacher Training

Audit Intern – Internal Audit

Birou R.U. – Office for Human Resources

Dep. de Asig. Calitatii – Department for Quality Assurance

Dep. de Orientare in Cariera a Stud. – Department for Students' Career Orientation

Dep. de Cercetare Stiintifica – Department for Scientific Research

Dep. Doctorate – Department for Doctoral Programmes

Dep. Marketing si Relatii Publice – Department for Marketing and Public Relations

Dep. Relatii Internationale – Department for International Relations

Biblioteca – Library

- Regulations governing the organization and activity of the Senate;
 - Regulations governing the organization and activity of the Bureau of the Senate;
 - Regulations governing the activity of the Committee for Legal Matters, Academic Conduct and Discipline;
 - Regulations governing the activity of the Education and Academic Evaluation Committee;
 - Regulations governing the activity of the Senate Committee for Scientific Research and Quality Management;
 - Regulations governing the organization of the Economic and Strategy Committee of the University Senate;
 - Regulations governing the activity of the Committee for National Partnerships and Alumni Relations;
 - Regulations governing the activity of the Committee for Public Relations, Marketing and Information Technology;
 - Regulations governing the activity of the Committee for International Academic Relations and European Academic Integration;
 - Regulations governing the activity of the Committee for Culture and Sports;
 - Regulations governing the activity of the Committee for Student Affairs;
 - Regulations governing teaching activities;
 - Regulations governing the recruitment of new teaching staff;
 - Regulations governing the scientific research activities;
 - Regulations governing the organization and activity of the University Department for Scientific Research;
 - Regulations governing the organization and activity of the University Board of Directors;
 - Regulations governing the elections for executive positions;
 - Regulations governing the organization and activity of the Department for Teacher Training;
 - Regulations governing the organization and activity of the Department for Distance Education;
 - Regulations governing the terms and conditions for conferring the honorary titles of Doctor Honoris Causa and Honorary Senator of LBUS;
 - Regulations governing the system for rewarding professional excellence and students' outstanding performance;
 - University bylaws;
 - Regulations governing the organization and activity of the Central University Library;
 - Regulations governing the activity of the Centre for Communications;
 - Regulations governing the entrance examination methodology;
 - Regulations governing the information and communication system within the University;
- (2) Other regulations, proposed by the Bureau of the Senate may be formulated and added to the University Charter after discussion and approval by the Senate.

Art. 11. (1) The language of teaching at LBUS is Romanian. If necessary, modules or study programmes may be organized in widely-known foreign languages; they should meet the requirements necessary for exercising these professions in Romania.

The system of education of LBUS is compatible with that of other Romanian and foreign universities, being based on the European System of Transferable Credits.

(2) Romanian and foreign citizens, without discrimination, may apply for any of the study programmes at LBUS, in compliance with the norms of the Constitution, of current legislation, and of the University Charter.

CHAPTER II

THE MISSION AND THE OBJECTIVES OF “LUCIAN BLAGA” UNIVERSITY OF SIBIU

Art. 12. (1) The mission of “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu is to train professionals in various fields, who are capable of employing valuable scientific, technical, cultural, artistic and spiritual knowledge, and of making a significant contribution to the technical, economic, and socio-cultural progress of Romanian society and the contemporary world.

(2) “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu provides well-designed, relevant and high quality programmes which are continually improved and developed thanks to the staff’s complex research activity, continuing the best Romanian academic traditions, and fully compatible with the requirements and available resources of modern human information society.

(3) The University trains professionals in compliance with the modern principle of students’ direct participation in the design of their career choices, by means of an educational process which is meant to stimulate their intellectual creativity, and to provide graduates with the skills they need in the competition on the free labour market.

(4) The University provides services for both its community and the society as a whole.

Art. 13 The main objectives of “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu are:

- a) to constantly improve the educational process, by enhancing the curricula, the syllabuses, and methodology in order to promote high-quality training, in accordance with the requirements of modern Romanian society.
- b) to implement a university management system, based on the modern requirements of quality and global funding, and which is compatible with the credit transfer system.
- c) to improve assessment and academic recognition methods, by means of new systems which have been adopted and tested by higher-education institutions worldwide.
- d) to implement continual training programmes for professionals in various fields: higher education, arts, technology, primary and secondary education.
- e) to improve the system of professional development and training of the academic and research staff.
- f) to develop scientific research and to establish research structures that are suitable for a high-quality educational process.
- g) to promote programmes for scientific research, technological development, educational innovation, scientific and technical production, by means of the University’s own resources or by national or international co-operation.
- h) to assess and promote members of the teaching staff according to their educational and

research proficiency level, in compliance with professional norms of conduct.

- i) to take part in international academic programmes, established by bilateral conventions with prestigious European and international higher-education institutions.
- j) to develop and support national and international co-operation.
- k) to contribute to Romania's cultural and scientific development.
- l) to develop information technology and communications systems.
- m) to improve educational services for students.
- n) to develop the University campus according to international standards.
- o) to preserve the estate of the University and to develop its infrastructure.

Art. 14. To carry out the activities that form its mission and to reach its objectives, "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, may form partnerships with other institutions and corporate bodies at home and abroad by setting up mutual-interest activity groups.

Art. 15. (1) "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu grants bachelor's degrees; advanced studies and master's degrees (short-term and long-term programmes); graduation certificates; doctoral degrees; as well as other certificates and credentials, as provided by current legislation.

(2) "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu awards honorary degrees and titles, as provided by current legislation and its own regulations.

CHAPTER III

UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY

Art. 16. "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu operates on the basis of university autonomy, as a genuine self-governing modality, in accordance with the legal framework under the Romanian Constitution, the Law of Education, the provisions of the present University Charter, as well as internal regulations.

Art. 17. University autonomy consists in the right of the University to govern itself; to enjoy academic freedom, with no ideological, political or religious constraints whatsoever; to exercise a number of competences, duties, and responsibilities, in accordance with the national strategy for the development of Romanian higher education, to follow the mandates of the advancement of science and technology, and the values of Romanian and world culture and civilization.

Art. 18. (1) The autonomy of "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu includes educational and scientific autonomy, organizational and functional autonomy, administrative and financial autonomy, and juridical autonomy.

(2) The legal competences of the University, Faculties, Colleges, Departments, and Research Centres are established by the Senate in accordance with current legislation, the present Charter, and relevant decisions.

(3) Under university autonomy, no representative of a state or any other governmental or non-governmental body can exercise its authority without the consent of the University as represented by the Senate or the Rector.

(4) At the national level, university autonomy is realized in the direct relation extant between the Rector and the Ministry of Education and Research, other ministries and institutions, as well as in the election of University representatives to Romanian professional bodies and organizations, under current legislation.

DIDACTIC AND SCIENTIFIC AUTONOMY

Art. 19. (1) The didactic and scientific autonomy of the University consists in the right:

a) to plan, organize, implement, and constantly improve the educational process according to national and international standards;

b) to select the forms and methods considered the most appropriate for academic and scientific activities, building on the existing academic experience and the available human and material resources;

c) to establish contacts and choose as partners and associates universities, research institutions, corporate bodies or individuals whose competence and prestige warrant their association with LBUS in activities such as programmes and contracts, consultancy, and the creation of new products and technologies, at the national and international level;

d) to publish and disseminate educational, academic and scientific works;

e) to grant honours and awards in acknowledgement of excellence achieved by individuals, groups or institutions, including the right to grant and receive educational, academic and scientific distinctions;

f) to organize Departments, Lines of Study, Faculties, Colleges, and Postgraduate and Doctoral Programmes, as provided by law;

g) to set up centres, laboratories, and research teams;

h) to assess research and its results on the basis of its own criteria, and to implement the necessary steps.

(2) LBUS has its own University Press and printing facilities and publishes journals and the Annals of the University, thereby participating in the international exchange of publications.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND FUNCTIONAL AUTONOMY

Art. 20. Organizational and functional autonomy consists in the right of the University

a) to establish, change and improve its own structures, including executive positions, under existing legislation;

b) to draw up internal regulations under existing legislation;

c) to establish and implement principles and criteria for professional assessment for the recognition, promotion and reward of the work of the members of the LBUS community;

d) to select the teaching staff, researchers, students, auxiliary teaching staff, and non-academic personnel;

e) to elect executive and management bodies under current legislation; approve teaching loads and personnel rosters in accordance with existing human and financial resources, and the stipulations of the curriculum and current legislation;

f) to regulate and assess the conduct of the members of the academic community;

g) to publish academic journals, handbooks, lecture notes, research papers or other material in support of the educational process and scientific research;

h) to confer didactic and scientific titles under current legislation;

i) to initiate and carry out, with the approval of the Senate, any other activities compatible with current legislation and international agreements;

- j) to organize scientific, cultural and sports events and activities.
- (2) The teaching staff are organized into Departments and Chairs.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL AUTONOMY

Art. 21. The administrative and financial autonomy of the University consists in the right:

- a) to organize its own administrative and financial structures and services;
- b) to utilize and administer the available budgetary and financial resources, according to its own priorities and following its own decisions;
- c) to increase its revenues by carrying out scientific research and other activities;
- d) to set fees and tuition, under current legislation;
- e) to accept legal donations and benefit from sponsorships;
- f) to grant scholarships and make payments;
- g) to administer the buildings and premises and all the estate of the University, according to its own needs;
- h) to orientate investments and new facilities;
- i) to make financial and banking transactions with any partners, according to its own needs;
- j) to organise production units and services generating financial revenues or other types of income, under current legislation.

Art.22 The financial resources of LBUS consist of government allocations, and other sources of income.

Art.23 (1) The non-budgetary sources of income may be: legal fees paid by corporate bodies as well as individuals; revenues coming from trade companies for research, design and production activities, expertise, post-graduate and professional conversion courses, training, expert evaluation, publishing activities, donations, sponsorships, national and international programmes, collaborations etc. The income obtained from the above mentioned sources is financially administered and integrally used within the University, under current legislation.

(2) The LBUS consolidated annual balance sheet is public.

Art.24 Revenues generated independently by Faculties, Colleges, Departments, Chairs, Research Centres and other structures will be used by these bodies, exception being made for a set percentage that will be used for maintaining and developing the estate of the University. The rate of the percentage is established by the Senate, following a proposal by the Bureau of the Senate, with the consultation of the Faculties.

JURISDICTIONAL AUTONOMY

Art.25 (1) The jurisdictional autonomy of the University consists in its right to decide the contents and the application of the University Charter, through its executive bodies, as well as in all other matters that fall under its competence, as provided by current legislation.

(2) The legal competences resulting from the jurisdictional autonomy may not be delegated to parties from outside the University.

Atr.26 The observance of the competences is guaranteed.

CHAPTER IV

PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE UNIVERSITY

Art.27 (1) "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu promotes the principles of democracy and the supremacy of the law, of university autonomy and academic freedom, of the observance of fundamental human rights.

(2) The LBUS community is advised of the decisions of the University Senate and its executive bodies, as well as about the main activities and events in the life of the University.

Art.28 (1) The University is open to all Romanian and foreign citizens, without discrimination. Admission to the University is based on competition.

(2) The continued status of members of the academic community is conditioned by the observance of the University regulations.

Art. 29 The educational activity in the University is carried out on the basis of the curricula approved by the Senate. Teaching in LBUS is organized, at the university level, under the form of short term and long term programmes, as well as post-graduate courses.

Art. 30 Teaching activity is inseparable from scientific research. In addition to the educational component, the fundamental criteria for the assessment of the professional activity of all teaching staff will always include a scientific component.

Art. 31 (1) The executive bodies and their members are elected in accordance with the current legislation and internal regulations. The SENATE of the University is the highest executive body.

(2) In all collective executive bodies, students are represented as provided by law.

(3) The decisions of the collective executive bodies are made by the majority vote of the members present, provided there is a 2/3 quorum.

(4) The students' vote is deliberative in all matters that concern them directly.

Art.32 With the approval of the Senate, the University can participate in associations, foundations, alliances of diverse categories of employees and students, provided the bylaws of these bodies are compatible with the provisions of the Romanian Constitution, current legislation and the present Charter.

Art.33 (1) The University premises cannot be used for the activities of political parties, or any other activity of a similar nature.

(2) The academic community as a whole is placed outside political activities and confrontations. The teaching and research activities that are specific to the University are incompatible with any form of political manifestation and proselytism.

(3) Membership in the academic community will not restrict the political activities of its members, as private individuals, outside University premises.

Art.34 The University encourages co-operation with other Romanian and foreign universities that conduct similar or complementary teaching and research activities. It encourages exchange programmes for students and teaching staff, on condition that mutual acknowledgement of competences is present.

Art.35 Students and academic staff are partners in the process of training highly qualified specialists. Student opinion – as expressed by spokespersons or based on accurate surveys – constitutes a modality of feedback, of evaluation and improvement of academic activity.

Art.36 The fair representation of the University's interests and the protection of its prestige

are fundamental duties of all members of the academic community.

Art.37 (1) The results of the educational and scientific activities at Faculties, Departments and Chairs are made public through annual reports of self-evaluation.

(2) The scientific and teaching activity of the teaching staff and researchers shall be periodically evaluated.

(3) The Senate shall periodically assess the activity of the academic bodies: Faculties, Colleges, Departments, Chairs, in accordance with the standards provided by the Ministry of Education and Research and by the National Board for Academic Evaluation and Accreditation. It shall also analyze and approve new lines of study and specialization, during the period of accreditation and after the end of the first cycle of activity.

Art.38 (1) The Senate of LBUS can confer the honorary degree of "Doctor Honoris Causa" of LBUS and the title of "Honorary Senator" as well as other honorary titles. These titles will be granted to persons with significant contributions to the development of the scientific, technological, cultural, and spiritual realms of activity; such academic distinctions may also be granted to prominent personalities of the scientific or public life with an outstanding record of service to the University, in accordance with Regulations governing the terms and conditions for conferring the honorary titles of Doctor Honoris Causa and Honorary Senator of LBUS.

(2) Persons with an outstanding record of service to a Faculty/Faculties may be awarded honorary titles of the respective Faculties: "Honorary Partner of the Faculty", "Honorary Member of the Faculty Council" etc. Proposals for the granting of these titles will be made by a Chair, Department, or collective, and proposals will be validated by the Faculty Council, under current regulations.

Art. 39. (1) The University Senate can confer the title of "Associate Fellow/Professor" to specialists in education, research, planning and production, who support the educational activities, research, and the development and modernization of the University.

(2) The Senate of the University can approve the extension of teaching for retired University staff on a yearly basis, under current legislation.

Art. 40. Members of the teaching staff can engage in educational, scientific, professional or research activities outside the University, under current legislation, provided these do not conflict with the normal carrying out of their regular duties.

Art. 41. LBUS promotes partnerships with other institutions of higher education in Romania and abroad, with the common goal of asserting our national identity, of promoting Romanian culture, and of developing international academic cooperation.

CHAPTER V

THE STRUCTURE OF "LUCIAN BLAGA" UNIVERSITY OF SIBIU

Art. 42. "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu includes Faculties, Colleges, Departments, Chairs, as well as other functional structures for scientific research, cooperation with other educational and research institutions in Romania and abroad, for documentation, academic publishing etc. LBUS also includes functional structures for the provision of administrative, human resources, financial, accounting, technical, and social services.

Art. 43. (1) The Faculty is the main functional unit of the University and is made up of a number of specialized divisions.

(2) The Faculty is distinguished through its admittance and graduation criteria, its distinct curricula, and its lines of study.

(3) The Faculty includes full-time teaching staff, students, researchers and project designers, auxiliary teaching staff, and non-academic personnel.

(4) The Faculty is organized and functions under the terms of the present Charter, University regulations, and its own regulations.

(5) The Faculty is governed by the Faculty Council, chaired by the Dean; the Council elaborates its regulations to govern the educational and research activities of the Faculty.

Art. 44. (1) A University College is a functional unit of the University which administers short-term (3 years) introductory programmes of study, and which may be accredited and/or authorized.

(2) The College has its own executive structure and is subordinated to the University or to a Faculty. The autonomy of a College is established by its internal regulations, approved by the Senate.

(3) The College is run by a Director, appointed by the Senate.

(4) The Medical College is subordinated to the Faculty of Medicine.

Art. 45. (1) A Department is an academic unit subordinated to the University or, as per case, to a Faculty, and it carries out educational, research, design and production activities.

(2) The Department is run by an executive elected under current legislation.

(3) The Department can organize training activities, under University regulations.

(4) Setting up a new Department will be authorized by the Senate.

Art. 46. (1) A Chair is the basic structural unit of the Faculty or, as the case may be, of the Department, and it carries out educational activities and research work. The Chair includes teaching staff and, as the case may be, research, planning/designing or auxiliary personnel, specializing in a specific field or in several related fields. It operates with a mandatory minimum of teaching positions and under current legislation.

(2) The Chair is run by a Board made up of the Chairperson and at least two other members, elected from among the full-time teaching staff of the Chair. Operational management falls within the responsibility of the Chairperson.

(3) The Chair is subordinated to the Faculty, or as the case may be, to the Department.

(4) Changes to the name of a Chair shall be effected by the Senate at the request of the Chair.

(5) Setting up a new Chair will be approved by the Senate at the proposal of the Chair or, as the case may be, of the Department.

Art.47. (1) A Laboratory is a unit under the supervision of Faculties, Departments, Chairs or Research Centres, with facilities and equipment for training programmes of scientific and experimental research.

(2) The setting up of Laboratories falls within the competence of the Department, of the Chair or of the Research Centre.

Art. 48. (1) A Research Centre is a unit whose main objective is scientific research activity, and which has earned its status as a "Centre" by undergoing the relevant evaluation procedures.

(2) LBUS accommodates its own Research Centres as well as Research Centres founded in collaboration with other institutions, under current legislation.

(3) In a Research Centre, the following programmes can be organized, under current legislation: Master programmes, postgraduate studies, doctoral programmes, postgraduate specialization studies, postgraduate training courses, continuous training courses and professional conversion courses.

(4) Research Centres are subordinated to the Senate; they operate and function on the basis of their own financial resources.

Art. 49. (1) The Centre for Technical Expertise, Technological Exchange, Production and Services is a means through which the University offers paid services to customers. This Centre will only function on the basis of self-financing, and by fulfilling its obligations to LBUS.

(2) Approval for the setting up of such Centres falls within the competence of the Senate.

CHAPTER VI

FINAL DISPOSITIONS

Art. 50. The draft of the Charter will be subjected for discussion with a view for final approval to the Bureau of the Senate, Faculty/Department Councils, Chairs, student and employee organizations. The Charter is approved by vote of the Senate of LBUS, legally constituted in meeting with full quorum.

Art.51. Proposals for the alteration of the Charter will be made at the initiative of at least three Faculties or at least one third of the members of the Senate and will follow the procedure used for its initial adoption.

Art.52. Based on the Charter, Faculties, Colleges, Departments, Chairs, Research Centres and Administrative Departments will elaborate their own regulations.

Art.53. The present Charter will be effective on approval by the Senate of the University.

Art.54. After approval, the Charter will be translated into English and communicated to partner universities and international higher education associations.

Art.55. The regulations accompanying the present Charter will be drawn up within nine months from its adoption and will constitute the Annex to the Charter. The regulations are approved by the Senate and become operational starting with the next academic year. Pending elaboration and approval of new regulations, current regulations retain their validity, exception being made for provisions that contradict the present Charter.

Art.56. The present Charter has become operational on 25 May 2004, upon its approval by the Senate.

On the same date of 25 May 2004, the Charter of the University adopted by the Senate on 26 February 1996 was abrogated, as were any and all dispositions contrary to the present Charter.