

STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY 2007

REBUILDING THE
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA AND
CELEBRATING 145 YEARS OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

A Presentation by
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President, UL

Introduction

- I am Al-Hassan Conteh
President of the University of Liberia
- The purpose of UL Day is to mobilize support in cash and kind to meet the University of Liberia's post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation needs of its six colleges, three professional schools and five graduate programs serving a student population of about 15,000.

Topics of Discussion

- Strategic Mission of the University
- History of the University
- The University Today
- Needs of the University
- Where Do We Go From Here?

Mission of the University

- Prepare well qualified men and women for teaching, research, public, and private service, and to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for sustainable human development.

Vision

- An independent institution of higher education where academic excellence thrives in the search of truth and knowledge; where research and teaching are cherished and promoted; where a high premium is placed on academic freedom of creative thinking “out of the box” in a scholastic environment where outstanding students and researchers from Liberia, and around the world are continually challenged and inspired to do their best possible work.

Core Values

- Excellence
- Autonomy
- Truth and Knowledge
- Discipline
- Credibility
- Transparency
- Accountability

Strategic Mission of the University

- To excel in teaching, learning, research and community service, and prepare men and women to assume leadership roles at the community, region, state and international levels; to be a center of excellence where books are written, where innovative research is carried forward, where both faculty and students develop practical, objective thinking and scholarship in solving the postwar problems of Liberia and addressing the Millennium Development Goals.

History of the University

- The University of Liberia traces its origins to Liberia College. Liberia College was incorporated by an Act of the Legislature of Liberia in December, 1851. The Cornerstone for the first building, Financed by the Trustees of Donations for Education in Liberia, was laid on January 25, 1858.

History of the University of Liberia

- In 1862, former President of the Republic, Joseph Jenkins Roberts, was inaugurated as the first President of Liberia College. With Roberts and with two professors---the Revs. Alexander Cromwell and Edward Wilmot Blyden and seven students-- the College Department opened in February, 1863.

History of the University of Liberia

- In 1951, the Legislature of the Republic chartered the University of Liberia as a national University that would be a "...center of learning with high academic standards which is dedicated to the pursuit, promotion and dissemination of knowledge with emphasis on practical knowledge which is immediately useful to economic, social and cultural development needs."

The University Today

- The bachelors degree granting components are:
- College of Social Sciences & Humanities (Liberia College)
- The William V.S. Tubman Teachers College
- The William R. Tolbert , Jr. College of Agriculture and Forestry
- The College of Business and Public Administration
- The T.J.R. Faulkner The College of Science and Technology
- The College of General Studies

The University Today

Professional schools:

- Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law
- School of Pharmacy
- A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine

Graduate programs:

- Regional Science
- Ibrahim B. Babangida Graduate Program in International Studies
- Educational Administration & Supervision
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Public Administration
- Master in Management
- Diploma & Certificate in Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation

Enrollment

■ Undergraduate	14,616	3,512 F
■ Professional	398	66 F
■ Graduate	275	34 F
■ Total	15,289	3,612 F

Graduation Statistics 2004-07

- Associate Degrees 2
- Bachelor Degrees 1,173
- Professional Degrees 48
- Master Degrees 49

FY 2007-08 Budget

■ Personnel	US\$3,174,773	75%
■ Operation	944,374	23%
■ Capital	118,853	2%
■ Total	US\$4,238,000	

Faculty and Staff

- Academic and Research Faculty
329
- Administrative & Support Staff
- 917

Effects of the Civil War on the University

- The civil war has reduced the capacity of the University of Liberia to respond adequately in the production of competitive human resources that can generate and manage sustainable social, economic development activities in Liberia. It is cheaper, nevertheless, to train the current and future manpower of the nation's highest institution of learning than abroad in terms of the considerable savings that can be realized.

Effects of the Civil War on the University

- It is imperative, therefore, that the government, business and international communities, and civil society community move quickly to help restore fully the activities at the University. The University will then be able to assume its leadership role in spearheading Liberia's post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

Needs of the University

- A reconstruction/endowment fund of \$25 million to help rebuild the University's teaching and research capacity in science and technology, agricultural self-sufficiency and medical education (including STD/HIV AIDS research and prevention and malaria and polio control), civic education and strengthening of democracy, among others. This amount will also help to finance the University's annual budget in three categories: Personnel Services, Operating Expenditure, and Capital Expenditure amounting to about US\$3 million annually

Needs of the University

- Replacement of instructional and research equipment, laboratory equipment machinery, furniture, computers, science equipment, laboratory supplies, consumable chemicals, photocopiers, office equipment and supplies, student armchairs, chalkboards, books, AV equipment, and Internet facilities.

Needs of the University

- Reference books for the University's main library, including up to date textbooks in the fields that the University offers.
- Renovation of 61 buildings on three campus on three campuses of the University, including the Medical/Pharmacy Campus, Science Complex, Academic Building, and Agriculture College on the Fendall Campus (located about 16 miles north-east of Monrovia) and the University's main library.

Needs of the University

- Recruitment of professors in fields that the University offers.
- Faculty, staff and student development through scholarships and study abroad programs at U.S. and other Universities in Africa, Europe and Asia, and short-term refresher programs and courses

Needs of the University

- Procurement of buses to transport 15,000 students and 1,000 Faculty and staff between the three University of Liberia campuses.
- Reopening of the University Book Store, Clinic and Multipurpose Sports Court

Global Initiatives

- Partnerships with over 10 Universities in Africa, the United States, and Europe
- US\$25 Million New China-Aided Campus at Fendall
- Renovation of Fendall Campus by the United States Government
- US\$25 Million Endowment

Where Do We Go From Here?

- ⑩ Generate a comprehensive endowment fund to support new strategic plans for the six undergraduate colleges, three professional schools, three graduate programs and all the administrative and support departments of the University to guide its way forward through the 21st Century.

Where Do We Go From Here?

- ⑩ Create a framework for devising new academic programs, centers and institutes in response to post-war challenges in Liberia;
- ⑩ Reexamine the Long Range Plan of the University by updating it to the realities of the transitional period, with the view of designing an implementable program for the relocation of the University to its Fendall Campus by the Year 2011;
- ⑩ Review the current sources of support and constraints by identifying sources and means of supporting the University through workable mechanisms;

Quo Vadis?

- ⑩ Review the current framework of the administration of the Graduate Programs by reassessing their structures and relationship to the existing colleges with the goal of organizing a new, graduate administrative structure;

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- ⑩ Review the Charter of the University and recommend changes in consideration of the postwar needs of the country;
- ⑩ Review the current scope of regional and international cooperation in order to recommend new institutional arrangements, in the context of current, global trends and needs of the University.

Conclusion

- ⑩ Finally, we appeal to you to assist us rebuild the University of Liberia. We appeal for your assistance to higher education without which Liberians would be insecure in sustaining free institutions. We encourage you to please take the stand here today and make a contribution to the endowment of our University.

The End

Thank you for supporting UL Day.