

**NOTE: THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION of
the 67th Greek Rectors Synod Resolution 1.**

**See http://www.synodos-aei.gr/documents/67_full.pdf
for the original Greek text.**

**See http://www.synodos-aei.gr/index_en.html for further information on the
Rectors' Synod history, structure, function and administration**

Resolution 1

The 67th Rectors' Synod, which convened in Volos on 1-2 July, 2011 noted that the Ministry of Education insists to the same tactic for the last nine months. The Ministry demonstrates enmity towards the academic community, exhausts the time [available] in order to attempt rapid changes in higher education amid summer. This takes place while all kinds of leaking indicates the existence of a hidden agenda. In a modern Democracy, the Rectors' Synod, can not be occupied with leaking. However, the Synod is not willing to turn a blind eye when the Universities and the Greek society are discredited and mocked in such a way.

Based on the repeated declarations of the Ministry's political leadership, we consider the following to be harmful for both the Universities and society:

- The distortion of the nature of studies through the fast-track, post secondary-education training programs at the University (of one, two or three years duration). The emphasis on the triennial study programs leads in a simultaneous downgrading of the ability to exercise a profession and damages the public good.
 - The threat of closing down / merging Universities without any strategic planning.
 - The transfer to an independent authority of the state's obligation to fund universities.
 - The introduction of tuition fees at the undergraduate level.
- ❖ Nobody can guarantee the independence and transparent functioning of Universities, when:
- Their elected administrations are dismissed and internal democracy is abolished.
 - Administration is fully surrendered without any counterweights, to external [to the academia] actors, such as the powerful Council, following procedures which involve a high risk of dealings, control by external to the University centers of power and prevalence of interest groups.
 - Faculty members' equal participation in the University procedures is cancelled.

- The democratic legitimation of University administration bodies is cancelled and the participation of the academic community stake-holders is abolished.
- All of the above lead to the transformation of the University into a Corporation, passing on the operating costs to the Greek family.

Society does not need a subordinated University. On the contrary, under the current conditions, society needs, among other things, Greek universities to operate in conditions of academic freedom in order to contribute towards the overcoming of the crisis, with international distinctions and with their demonstrated ability to conform and manage the crisis by streamlining and cost reduction, utilization of human capital, of innovation and of their available expertise. However, the Ministry of Education, instead of drawing attention to the Greek University as an ally, is constantly attacking it. Why has universities' state funding decreased in 2010-2011 up to 50% and to an additional 16% in 2011-2012, when even in the austerity program, out of which the Greek society is challenged, the state's budget reduction for the Ministry of Education does not exceed 7%?

The Rectors' Synod calls the academic community, society and the political forces to undertake their responsibility so as to avoid giving the coup de grace to the Greek public university. Even at this final hour, the Rectors' Synod calls the Ministry not to proceed unilaterally in submitting the bill and to take into account its recommendations formulated in the Rectors' Synods which took place in Rethymnon and Lavrion. The Rectors' Synods and the Universities have long ago made concrete proposals on important issues of operation and development of Greek universities, including:

- The strengthening of social accountability.
- The reorganization of the administration.
- The Curricula.
- The Research.
- The development and economic management.

The Synod decides to remain in constant session throughout the following period, to undertake a coordinated campaign informing the public opinion, political parties and the Parliament's institutions and invites the academic community to defend the public good of Education. No reform in Higher Education is possible, without the participation of the academic community. The Rectorate Authorities operate responsibly and will honor the mandate they got from the academic community, strongly defending the Public University.