

## THE UNIVERSITY AND SOCIETY

1. The definition of the University:
  - i. its traditional role
  - ii. its modern role
  
2. The definition of Society
  
3. The needs of Society Today in Africa:
  - a. Material Demands
    - the need for constructional developments and developmental projects
    - the need for technicians, artisans, and specialists, etc.
    - the need for a good living wage to enable a decent standard of living, especially in the urban areas
    - what other demands does your society make?
  
  - b. What is really needed:
    - education? mass literacy? formal education? adult education?
    - the development of agriculture, the extension of health services, and better housing
    - the development of a well-informed public (in most countries the general public is apathetic to national issues)
    - the active participation in the government of the country (general public in new independent countries are not aware of the fact that they are now the government)
    - the need for harmonious co-existence (this is important in multi-racial states and also in states which include more than one tribe)
    - the legitimate greater say in the government of their states
    - the assumption of civic responsibilities of especially the educated
    - the need for leaders of integrity at all levels of civic life
    - the proper adaptation of western technique and culture to African ways of life to avoid upheavals and to avoid rendering many states in Africa "spiritless", etc. etc. etc.
  
4. The Mission of the University in Africa:
  - a. The orthodox mission:

This has been treated under "The University and the State". Below are however, other points that might be considered.

    - preservation and transmission of culture
    - what culture? the African or Western?
    - to teach the principles which govern a community of peoples
    - to promote legitimate interest in national affairs
    - to guide the society, to create culture and direct the spiritual life of the nation
    - how far are the above being carried out in your University?
  
  - b. The special Mission in the African Context:
    - i. General
      - to adapt itself to African environments
      - what comparisons and differences do you make between your life in the University and your life at home?
      - do you think the University life is foreign to its surroundings?
      - how much do you think this can be avoided?
      - how do you think a good mean can be drawn between life as led at home and in the University?



ii. Curriculum:

- is the curriculum completely divorced from local knowledge and needs?
- does it meet local needs?
- is it based on local or national culture? If not, what difference does it make?
- are local materials being used for experiments and research in the science subjects?
- in the Arts, is there any attempt to make researches in African History, languages, art and music?
- are you taught to appreciate your national culture?

iii. Education:

- does the University consider itself responsible for education for those outside its walls, e.g. in Secondary schools and Training Colleges?
- does it have extension of University and adult education branches?
- does it cooperate with the State in educational projects?
- are the University's representatives on any educational Boards or Councils?
- what effect, if any, have they on the general education problems by being on these Boards?
- is the University afforded the opportunity to help in educational matters?
- does it give constructive criticism on educational problems based on actual situations in Africa?
- how far does the University influence the education in the Secondary Schools and High School levels?
- is there any collaboration between the heads of educational institutions and the University?

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iv. The Natural Sciences:

- how far is there collaboration between the University and the government on projects, i.e. mechanisation of agriculture, fisheries, geological survey, etc.
- are students really equipped for their future professions?
- does the University make available to the government the results from researches made into local problems?

v. Economics and Sociology:

- does the University help to solve problems of society, which need theoretical backing, e.g. unemployment, labour, wages, etc.
- does the University give you opportunities to do comparative studies in Sociology?
- do you study the basis of your own society in order to have an appreciation for you own tribe and nation, and to know which aspects should be bettered?
- is there a Faculty of African Studies, giving you the opportunity to learn more about your country's and other African countries' wealth in art, literature, and music?

vi. Professions:

- does your University accede to the utilitarian and practical demands of society, i.e. the preparation of students in the immediate handling of their tools of trade?
- are degrees awarded more for the knowledge acquired than for the skill acquired?

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-what dangers, if any, are involved in giving students only training in knowledge or in the skill alone?

5. The University, the Student, and Society

a. The situation of University Regarding Civism;

- has the university an influence on the political life of the country? how? directly or indirectly?
- does it influence the life of the community?
- does the university take an interest in civic awareness within its walls? how? and to what degree?
- do the professors and lecturers take an interest in politics?
- does the fact that most of them are foreign influence or affect their interest in politics? If so, how?
- are the views of the staff, predominantly foreign, different from those of the students? If so, on what grounds? how are the differences solved?

b. Student Life:

- what sort of political life is led in your University?
- what interest do students show in administering their Hall?
- is it realised that the College is the training ground for future political life?
- are there any political clubs in the University?
- what is their nature? are they associated with political parties in the country?
- is there any particular benefit or danger for these political clubs in associating with outside political parties?
- does the University allow students freedom in right to assembly as student body, right to assembly in special groups or clubs, right to publish student magazines, etc., right to join other organizations as representatives or as individuals in political organizations, national students' organizations, and international organizations?
- if not, by what measures are these rights denied, and how do students react?

c. The Student and Society:

- what do you think is the foremost service you have to render to Africa and Society in general as a student on government scholarship or as a private student?
- what personal contribution do you give to your village or town during vacations as regards civic responsibility?
- in the University clubs, do you consider specific African problems, e.g. political independence, apartheid, family responsibilities, polygamy, brideprice, etc.
- how do you influence society with your decisions?
- What is the best means of bridging the gulf between the young graduate who supersedes the old hands in the government and commercial offices?
- how can the several prejudices against young graduates in your country be allayed?
- are there any grounds for students to enlist directly in political parties in your country?
- what dangers are involved in such an enlistment?
- if direct enlistment jeopardises students' stay in the University what other practical ways can be adopted to let student influence in civic responsibility/felt outside the University?



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-would the participation of students in projects like campaigns in mass literacy, community development, domestic science, health services, etc. serve any purpose and help the University to influence the community? What other projects can easily be undertaken?

6. THE ROLE OF THE FEDERATION:

a. Internal:

-does your Federation make its members aware of their civic responsibilities? how?

-does it work for the solution of human problems in the University?

Examples.

-is it able to form opinion throughout the University?

-does it take part in the work of student unions?

-do Catholics stand as individuals or as members of Catholic groups?

In your present circumstances which would benefit the Catholics—standing as individuals or as representatives?

b. External:

-does your Federation influence public opinion? how? and to what extent?

-does your Federation work directly or indirectly for the Community? in what ways? If it does not, have you any suggestions to make as to how it can now do so? in

-do you think the participation/national political life of the country would be beneficial to the country? how? and in what ways?

-do you have any contacts with Pax Romana and other Federations as regards social problems?

-do you consider other Federations problems and help them to solve them in the light of your own problems?

7. How best can the University influence the Society:

-is the institution and meaning of the University appreciated by your country? why?

-do you think the following suggestions may help to foster an appreciation for the meaning of the University in your country?

a. the extension of University and adult education

b. helping the society to solve all practical problems which need theoretical backing

c. associating with government projects, especially in the emerging states of Africa

d. assuming true leadership in politics

e. publishing scholarly yet semi-popular books for the general public

have you any other points to make?