

**A LAW PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION
OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS
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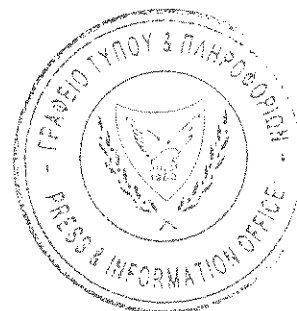
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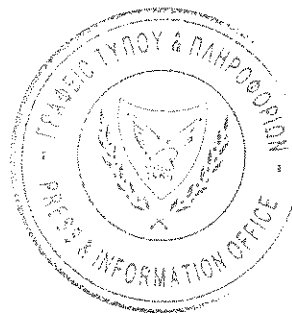
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L. 234(I)/2002

The Open University of Cyprus Law of 2002 comes into operation by publication
in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Cyprus in accordance with
Section 52 of the Constitution

Number 234(I) of 2002

**A LAW PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION
OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS**

The House of Representatives votes as follows:	
1. The present Law may be cited as the Open University of Cyprus Law of 2002 PART ONE PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS	Short Title
2. In this Law, unless a different meaning results from the text: "Academic Officer" means the Academic Course Officer established under section 9; "By-Laws" means the by-laws established and approved under section 31; "Council" means the University Council appointed in accordance with section 11; "Dean" means the Dean elected in accordance with section 16; "Deanery" means the Dean and all the members of the Academic Personnel of a Faculty; "Rector" means the Rector of the University elected and appointed in accordance with section 15; "Regulations" means the Regulations issued under section 30; "University" means the Open University of Cyprus established with this Law;	Interpretation



"Vice Chancellor" means the Vice Chancellor of the University selected and appointed in accordance with section 15.

PART TWO OPEN UNIVERSITY

3. (1) The Republic of Cyprus establishes an Open University with an administrative base in Lefkosia and named "Open University of Cyprus".

(2) The University facilitates the needs of Cypriot citizens and Cypriot expatriates, including foreigners.

(3) The University is a legal entity governed by public law and may:

(a) sue and be sued;

(b) accept, purchase and own property;

(c) provided the provisions of this Law are complied with and to perform its objects:

(i) obtain by purchase, lease, exchange, donation or otherwise movable or immovable property;

(ii) sell, exchange, donate, lease, assign, mortgage or charge its property or otherwise dispose of any of its movable or immovable property;

(d) perform every act which may entail the performance of its objects by virtue of this Law or which is undertaken or may be undertaken by or against legal entity governed by public law.

4. (1) The language instruction at the University will be the official languages of the Republic.

(2) In special circumstances to be determined by decision of the Senate, the University may offer the existing Courses or Thematic Unit in other languages.

5. The mission of the University, using open and long distance education, is:

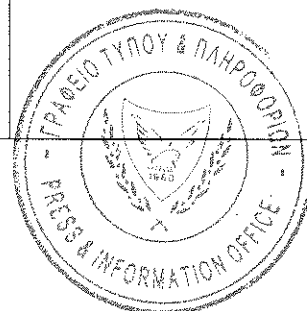
(a) to provide everyone with an equal opportunity to learn, irrespective of age, place and year of study and

(b) to promote science, knowledge, learning, research and life-long learning.

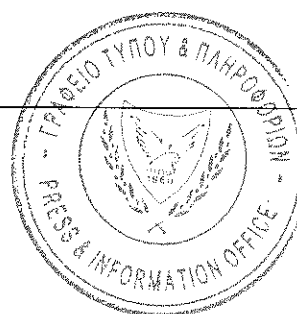
Establishment of the Open University

Language instruction

Mission of the University



<p>6. The University, using open and long distance education, has the following aims:</p> <p>(a) to provide undergraduate and postgraduate education and training with the development and use of suitable educational material and teaching methods;</p> <p>(b) to provide special educational sandwich courses;</p> <p>(c) the continuous education and retraining of Cypriot citizens and Cypriot expatriates, including foreigners.</p>	Goals of the University
<p>7. (1) The main operational unit is the Thematic Unit which covers a particular cognitive subject on a degree and postgraduate level</p> <p>(2) The material taught, the duration and the academic credit units for every Thematic Unit are determined by the by-laws.</p>	Main operational unit
<p>8. (1) The University consists of:</p> <p>(a) The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences</p> <p>(b) The Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management</p> <p>(c) The Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences</p> <p>(2)(a) The Faculties offer courses consisting of a combination of Thematic Units, they are determined by decision of the Senate following the proposal of the Deanery, and ratified by the Council.</p> <p>(b) Upon the decision of the Senate, ratified by the Council, Thematic Units of the Faculties may be created, abolished, renamed and or merged:</p> <p>It is understood that the creation of a Thematic Unit is not permitted with the same cognitive subject in more than one Faculty.</p>	Faculties
<p>9. (1) The Academic Officer for every course is appointed by the Dean by rotation for a period of two years and in order of rank and seniority from a member of the Academic Personnel:</p> <p>Provided that between members of the Academic Research Personnel and the Part Time Educational Personnel that have the same rank and seniority, priority will be given to the members of the</p>	Academic Course Officer



Academic Personnel:

Provided further that the member from the Academic Personnel will be a coordinator of one of the Thematic Units of such course.

(2) The duties of the Academic Officer are determined by the By-Laws.

PART THREE

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF THE UNIVERSITY

10. The administrative bodies of the University are the Council, the Senate, the Rector, the Vice-Rector, the Deaneries and the Deans.

11. (1) There is a Council of the University which will exercise the powers and perform the duties assigned to it by this Law.

(2) The Council comprises nine members as follows:

(a) The Rector and the Vice-Rector;

(b) four members appointed by the Council of Ministers and who are not members of the Academic Personnel and

(c) three members from the Academic Research Personnel, appointed by the Senate, two of which are members of the Academic Research Personnel and one is a member of the academic research personnel of another university.

(3) The Council, within fifteen days from the appointment of its members in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2), convenes its first meeting by invitation of its oldest member, who presides over such meeting and establishes itself into a body by electing the President and Vice-President from the members who do not belong to the Academic Research Personnel.

(4) As for the powers, the method of operation, the term of office of the members of the Council and other related matters, the provisions of the University of Cyprus Law, will apply, *mutatis mutandis*.

Administrative Board of the University

Council

144 of 1989

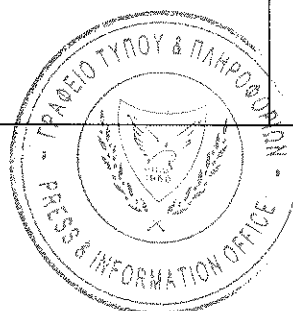
137 of 1990


53(I) of 1994

77(I) of 1994

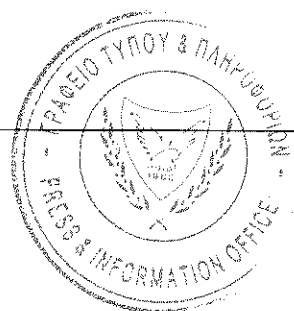
24(I) of 1995

59(I) of 1997



	<p>90(I) of 1998 127(I) of 1999 84(I) of 2000 44(I) of 2001 90(I) of 2002</p>
<p>(5) At the meetings of the Council the Director of Administration and Finance participates, without a right to vote.</p> <p>12. (1) There is a Senate of the University which is the supreme academic body of the University. (2) The Senate comprises: (a) The Rector; (b) The Vice-Rector; (c) The Deans; (d) a member of the Academic Research Personnel of the University from every Faculty and (e) the Director of the Department of Educational Material and Educational Methodology. (3) Chairman of the Senate is the Rector. (4) At the meetings of the Senate the following shall have a right to participate, without a right to vote (a) the Director of Administration and Finance; and (b) two representatives of the students of the University one of which is of undergraduate and the other of postgraduate level, provided the University has a Students Union. (5) The decisions are taken by majority and in the event of an equality of votes the Rector has a casting vote. (6) The Senate may form committees, comprising members of the academic and administrative staff of the University, with specific powers. (7) The powers of the Senate and matters concerning the Senate and are not regulated in this Law, the relevant provisions of the University of Cyprus Law, will apply, <i>mutatis mutandis</i></p> <p>13. The members of the Academic Research Personnel of the University that participate in the Senate, are voting for a period of two years, by secret ballot by the entire number of members of the Academic Research Personnel of every Faculty.</p>	<p>Senate</p>  <p>Participation of Academic Research Personnel in the Senate</p>

<p>14. (1) The duties of the Secretary of the Senate meetings are performed by the Director of Administration and Finance.</p> <p>(2) In the event the Secretary is absent or unable to attend his replacement is determined by the Senate.</p>	<p>Secretary of the Senate</p>
<p>15. (1)(a) The Rector and the Vice-Rector are elected, separately, from the University Professors, at a meeting convened especially for this purpose and in which the entire Academic Research Personnel participate.</p> <p>(b) The duties and powers of the Rector and Vice-Rector are determined by Regulations: Provided that until the issue of Regulations and provided there is no provision to the contrary in this Law, the relevant provisions of the University of Cyprus Law, will apply, <i>mutatis mutandis</i></p> <p>(c) The Rector and the Vice Rector, in addition to their duties, perform a teaching and guiding role.</p> <p>(2) The Rector and Vice-Rector will hold office for a term of four years and is subject to re-election.</p> <p>(3) The Vice-Rector substitutes the Rector when he is absent or unable to attend, he is responsible for the financial affairs of the University and performs any other powers vested in him by the Rector.</p>	<p>Rector and Vice-Rector</p>
<p>16. (1) Head of every Faculty of the University is the Dean and in the event of his absence or inability to attend a Deputy is determined by the Deanery.</p> <p>(2) The Dean will hold office for a term of three years and is subject to re-election.</p> <p>(3) The mode of election, the duties and powers of the Deans are determined by the By-Laws.</p>	<p>Election and powers of Deans</p>
<p>17. The Deanery is the supreme body of the Faculty and comprises the Dean and all the members of the Academic Research Personnel of the Faculty.</p> <p>(2) The operation, decision-making method and powers of the Deanery are determined by the By-Laws.</p>	<p>Composition and powers of Deanery</p>



PART FOUR
ACADEMIC PERSONNEL

18. (1) The Academic Personnel consists of the Academic Research Personnel and the Part Time Educational Personnel.

(2)(a) The Academic Research Personnel of the University consists of Professors, Deputy Professors, Assistant Professors and Lecturers.

(b) The decisive criteria for the selection of members of the Academic Research Personnel are experience and qualifications to open and distance learning.

(c) Their status, qualifications and conditions for their selection is determined by Regulations:

Provided that until the issue of Regulations and provided there is no provision to the contrary in this Law, the relevant provisions for members of the academic research personnel of the University of Cyprus, will apply, *mutatis mutandis*.

3(a) Positions for Academic Research Personnel of the University may be fulfilled by inviting academics from Tertiary Educational Institutions abroad that possess the equivalent qualifications of the rank of Professor or Deputy Professor.

(b) For the purposes of paragraph (a) of the present subsection, the relevant provisions of the University of Cyprus Law, will apply, *mutatis mutandis*.

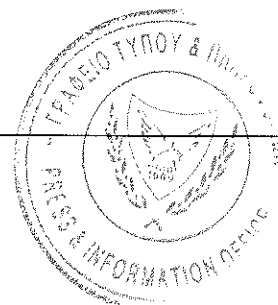
(4) The members of the Academic Research Personnel are solely under full and exclusive employment.

(5) Granting sabbatical leave to members of the Academic Research Personnel is regulated in the By-Laws.

(6)(a) The members of the Part Time Educational Personnel are either holders of a doctorate or members of academic research personnel of Tertiary Educational Institutions in Cyprus or abroad and have experience and qualifications in open and distance learning:

Provided that in certain circumstances persons who are not holders of a doctorate but have extensive experience and great knowledge in the particular subject matter or are distinguished to the highest

Academic Personnel



degree in the particular field may be appointed members of the Part Time Educational Personnel provided that the total number of such persons does not exceed 25% of the total number of Part Time Educational Personnel.

(b) Members of the Part Time Educational Personnel are contractually employed with employment contracts regulated by private law, of a specific duration, with the possibility of renewal to cover particular teaching needs.

(7) Members of the Academic Research Personnel and of the Part Time Educational Personnel are formed into Teaching Staff Groups per Thematic Unit.

19. The mission of the members of the Academic Personnel of the University is open and distance learning, scientific research in the subject matter of the course and to develop educational and informative material, including evaluation material.

PART FIVE TITLES

20. The University awards

- (a) Degrees;
- (b) Masters Title;
- (c) Certificates of Attendance of a Thematic Unit;
- (d) Certificates for Foundation Courses; and
- (e) Certificates for Postgraduate Courses

PART SIX STUDENTS

21. (1) The enrolment of students to a degree level or to a Thematic Unit is without examinations and presupposes that the student is a holder of an *apolyterion* of secondary education or an equivalent qualification either from Cyprus or abroad.

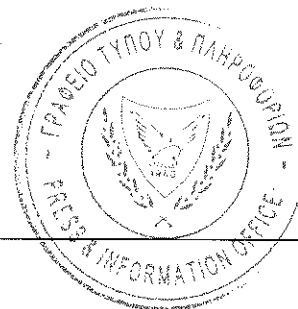
(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1) of the present section, the enrolment criteria to degree courses and Thematic Units and other related matters, are regulated by the By-Laws

(3) The enrolment of students to postgraduate

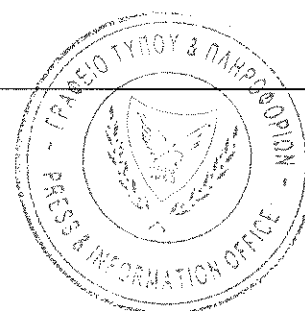
Mission of Academic Personnel

Titles awarded by the University

Enrolment of students



<p>courses is regulated by the By-Laws.</p> <p>22. (1)(a) Every student who is not a citizen of the Republic or member state of the European Union will pay fees, per Thematic Unit, the amount of which will be determined by the Council.</p> <p>(b) Every student of postgraduate level will pay fees the amount of which will be determined by the Council.</p> <p>(2) A student who has successfully completed one or more Thematic Units may interrupt his studies at the University for a period that does not exceed three years.</p> <p>(3) A student of undergraduate level, who is the holder of another degree or another title awarded by a recognised Educational Institution of Tertiary Education, may secure as part of the Thematic Units subjects that he attended to obtain the other degree or title.</p> <p>(4) Group Tutorials with students are organised by decision of the Deaneries.</p> <p>(5) The number of Thematic Units students are entitle to attend, the place and method of examinations, obtaining the title and certificate of attendance, including other related issues, are regulated by the By-Laws.</p>	<p>Obligations and rights of students</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PART SEVEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES</p> <p>23. (1) The Council appoints the Director of Administration and Finance, who must have sufficient knowledge and experience in open and distance learning, including other employees who are necessary for the performance of the powers of the University.</p> <p>(2) By decision of the Council, following the suggestion of the Director of Administration and Finance of the University, the powers of the Administration and Finance Services of the University are determined in detailed.</p> <p>(3) The Director of Administration and Finance</p> <p>(a) Exercises administrative control;</p> <p>(b) inspects and coordinates the Administrative and</p>	<p>Administrative and Financial Services and powers of the Director of such Services</p>



Financial Services of the University;
(c) is responsible for their smooth operation within the framework of the directions and decisions of the Council, the Rector and the Senate; and
(d) ensures that the decisions of the Council, the Senate and all other collective bodies of the University are carried out.

PART EIGHT
OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING

24. (1) The open and distance learning education is based on the development and use of

- (a) Suitable educational material,
- (b) suitable methods and means to convey distance learning;
- (c) Informative material; and
- (d) methods to continually evaluate students.

(2)(a) The development of the material referred to in subsection (1) in the present section includes the production of standards for their mass reproduction.

(b) The production of standard educational material includes

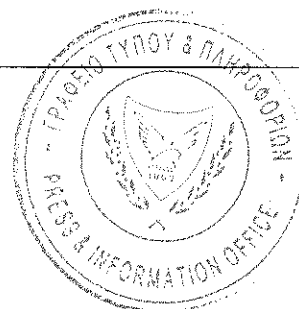
- (i) writing, including selecting, translating and adapting books, mainly prepared for distance learning;
- (ii) the production of software for computers and multimedia, digital discs, cassettes and video tapes, including any other means for transmitting information;
- (iii) the production of television and audio programmes in cooperation with public or private broadcasting stations.

(3)(a) For the purposes of subsection (2) of the present section, including for the development of distance learning methods and for the continuous evaluation of students a Department of Educational Material and Educational Methodology is established.

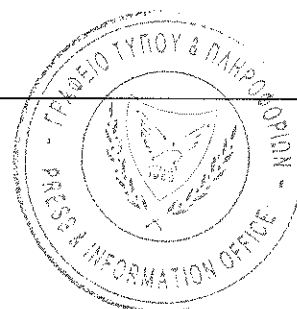
(b) The personnel and the organisation of the department is regulated by the By-Laws:

Provided that the Academic Research Personnel that are members of the department have experience and qualifications in distance learning.

Educational Material,
Department of Educational
Material and Educational
Methodology



<p>25. (1) By decision of the Senate the University may cooperate with other "open university" type universities on an undergraduate and postgraduate level.</p> <p>(2) The University, by decision of the Council, contracts with Universities in Cyprus or abroad and with internal or external public or private bodies, who have developed courses suitable for open and distance learning, for the purpose of obtaining educational and informative material, including evaluation material.</p> <p>(3) For the mass reproduction of educational and informative material and evaluation material or for the assignment of any rights to mass reproduction and sale of educational and informative material, including evaluation material, the University, by decision of the Council, assigns the relevant projects and contracts to bodies in the public or private sector.</p>	<p>Cooperation with Universities and institutions and mass reproduction of educational material</p>
<p>26. The University, by decision of the Council, contracts with state and private broadcasting stations for the production and transmission of visual or audio programmes for its purposes.</p>	<p>Radio and television programmes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PART NINE UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>27. (1) The Internal Evaluation Committee is convened by decision of the Senate for the continuous improvement of the quality of the education provided.</p> <p>(2) At regular intervals, the Council, upon the suggestion of the Senate, vests the evaluation of the task of the University to particular persons for this purpose, who are not members of staff of the University.</p>	<p>Internal Evaluation Committee and external evaluation</p>
<p>28. (1) With the commencement of every deanship, the Senate, on the basis of the relevant proposals of the Deans, submits a detailed programme of the development of the University to the Council.</p> <p>(2) When compiling the development programme the following results are taken into account</p>	<p>Development programme</p>



- (a) The Internal Evaluation Committee; and
(b) the external evaluation,
on the work of the University.

**PART TEN
FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

29. (1) The funds and revenues come into the University from

- (a) Subsidies from the Republic of Cyprus;
(b) European, international and interstate programmes;
(c) donations, legacies and grants to the University:
Provided that the acceptance of donations, legacies and grants to the University is made under conditions so that the independence of the University is safeguarded;
(d) fees, tuition fees and other funds that come into the University in accordance with this Law and the Regulations issued there under;
(e) money that is in any way payable to the University in respect of matters related to its powers,
(f) money from loans the University enters into;
(g) income from exploiting its property;
(h) any other amount or asset that may be payable to the University in respect of its powers.

(2) For the general financial administration of the University, the relevant provisions of the University of Cyprus Law, will apply, *mutatis mutandis*.

**PART ELEVEN
REGULATIONS**

30. (1)(a) Subject to the provisions of this Law the Council may issue, following the suggestion of the Senate, Regulations for or in respect of regulating any matter concerning the organisation, administration and management of the University:
Provided that until the application of the provisions of this Law as to the issue of Regulations, the corresponding provisions of the University of Cyprus Law, will apply, *mutatis mutandis*.

(2)(a) Regulations issued by the Council are approved by the Council of Ministers and submitted to the House of Representatives.

Resources of the University

Regulations



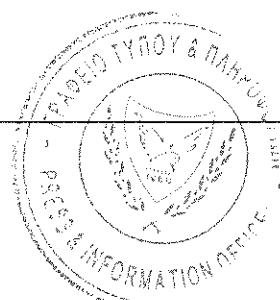
(b) If within sixty days from submitting the Regulations the House of Representatives by decision of the same does not amend or cancel the Regulations, in whole or in part, then such Regulations, immediately after the expiry of the abovementioned time limit are published in the Official Gazette of the Republic and their effect commences from such publication.

31. (1) Subject to the provisions of section 30, the By-Laws for the regulation of every matter, which on the basis of this Law requires or must be determined, are to be are established by decision of the Senate and approved by the Council.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the By-Laws will regulate every matter concerning

- (a) the content of the lessons;
- (b) the preparation of the course programme in combination with the Thematic Unit from two or more Faculties;
- (c) the definition and the duties of the Academic Officer;
- (d) the coordination and teaching of Thematic Units;
- (e) the duties of the Deans and their Deputies;
- (f) the planning of posts of the Teaching Staff;
- (g) the number of positions, duties, obligations and rights of the Associated Educational Staff;
- (h) granting sabbatical leave;
- (i) the number of positions provided per course and the Thematic Units a student may attend and the enrolment criteria;
- (j) the number of written evaluation tests including the method of conducting the final examinations;
- (k) how to obtain titles;
- (l) granting certificates of attending Thematic Units;
- (m) students re-registration;
- (n) staffing and organising the Department of Educational Material and Educational Methodology;
- (o) the development programme of the University;
- (p) staffing and powers of the Internal Evaluation

By-Laws



Committee.

**PART TWELVE
TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

32. (1) The University when commencing its operation is managed by the Interim Governing Board which comprises three to seven members who

(a) have academic background, including experience and qualifications in open and distance learning and

(b) are appointed by the Council of Ministers, who appoints its President and Vice-President.

(2) The Interim Governing Board exercises the duties of the Council, the Senate, the Deaneries to non autonomous Faculties and the Department of Educational Material and Educational Methodology until its autonomous operation.

(3)(a) An Academic Research Personnel Group is deemed autonomous when for the corresponding Thematic Unit at least one member of the Academic Research Personnel of the University, who is its Coordinator, has been appointed, either to a permanent post or with a contract.

(b) A Faculty is deemed autonomous when at least four Academic Research Personnel Groups which equate to an equal number of Thematic Units have obtained autonomy.

(c) The first Senate of the University is convened in accordance with the provisions of this Law if

(i) at least two Faculties are autonomous;

(ii) at least three members of the Academic Research Personnel have been appointed to the rank of Professor and/or Assistant Professor; and

(iii) the Director of Administration and Finance has been appointed.

(4) The relevant election procedures of the members of the first Senate and its composition to a body is moved by the Interim Governing Board.

(5) The first Rector and the first Vice-Rector are appointed by the Interim Governing Board upon the recommendation of the Search and Selection Committee which is established for this purpose by the Interim Governing Board.

Appointment and powers of the Interim Governing Board



(6) The first Director of Administration and Finance is appointed by the Interim Governing Board.

(7) When the University commences operations

(a) the members of the Academic Research Personnel Group are appointed who have experience and qualifications in open and distance learning:

Provided that at least one member is appointed to the rank of Professor or Assistant Professor

(b) Every Thematic Unit offered

(i) is coordinated by one member of the Academic Research Personnel and

(ii) is supported by other members of the Academic Research Personnel.

(8)(a) The Interim Governing Board appoints electoral bodies comprising Professors or Assistant Professors of Universities in Cyprus or abroad to select the first Academic Research Personnel of the University:

Provided that the members of the electoral bodies must have, preferably, specialised knowledge and experience in open and distance learning.

(b) The members of the electoral bodies must come from at least two other countries.

(c) The electoral bodies comprise three to five members and an electoral body is appointed for every course

(d) the electoral bodies proceed with the selection of the first Professors and Assistant Professors who, upon their appointment, become members of the electoral body of the home course, including the selection of the remaining members of the Academic Research Personnel

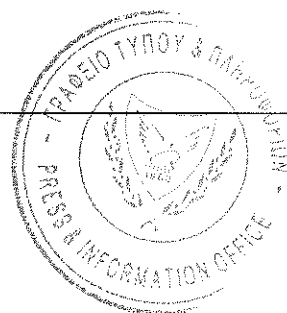
(9) Until the establishment and approval of By-Laws of the University, the By-Laws of the University of Cyprus will apply, *mutatis mutandis*.

33. For the first academic years of operation of the University it offers

(a) an undergraduate Programme in Hellenic Civilisation;

(b) an undergraduate Programme in Information Systems;

The first courses



- (c) an undergraduate Programme in European Civilisation;
- (d) an undergraduate Programme in Foreign Languages,
- (e) an undergraduate Programme in Business Administration and Organisations;
- (f) a postgraduate Programme in Specialised Education, in which "Open and Distance Learning" is included;
- (e) a postgraduate programme in Management of Health Units;
- (f) a postgraduate Programme in Public Administration and Business Administration;
- (g) a postgraduate Programme in Quality Assurance;
- (h) a postgraduate Programme in Environmental Planning and Structure Projects;
- (i) a postgraduate Programme in Tourism Business Administration;
- (j) training programmes in Thematic Units for which an Attendance Certificate will be awarded and where the equivalent academic credit units will be granted, where indicated.

PART THIRTEEN OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

34. Any person who without the approval of the Minister of Education and Culture uses the term "Open University" for educational programmes, irrespective as to whether such programmes are provided free or upon payment of fees or within the scope of a seminar, conference or other similar form of education, is guilty of an offence and in the event of his conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding one thousand pounds.

Offences and penalties

I hereby certify that this text is a true translation of the attached document

I hereby certify that the signature of the translator is that of
Stella J Stephani

(Sgd.) 
for Director
Press and Information Office
REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS 30/05/2011
(number of words translated 4482)

