



EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA



SELF ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

PART - I

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In General

Eastern University, Sri Lanka (EUSL) was established at first under the name of Batticaloa University College affiliated to the University of Peradeniya in 1981 and subsequently was elevated to the status of an independent University in 1986. The University College was started in a school building at Vantharumoolai in Batticaloa district and this school building was restructured to suit the needs of a University. The University had undergone tremendous difficulties to function due to the war situation prevailed in the Eastern Region during the last two and a half decades since its inception. However the University managed to carry out its academic programmes without interruptions due to the dedications manifested and sacrifices made by its entire staff under the most trying circumstances. The Eastern University is the only one Higher Educational Institution in the Eastern Province under the purview of the University Grants Commission which is providing higher education to the students of the region and the country at large with limited resources and infrastructure facilities.

The Eastern University is making its unified attempt to improve the functions of the University at all levels, to increase student intake by improving and expanding degree programmes both undergraduate and postgraduate, to produce innovative, creative and entrepreneurial graduates equipped with requisite competencies and social skills, to promote research in various disciplines and to make a greater contribution to the development of the region and the country. The Eastern University, National Center of Excellence for higher education and research in the Eastern Province, is stepping forward with the dedicated and committed services of its entire staff population to achieve the objectives of the Vision and Mission of the University.

1.2 The Faculties and the Courses of Study

At present the following Faculties are functioning under the purview of the Eastern University: Faculty of Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Arts and Culture, Faculty of Commerce and Management, Faculty of Health Care Sciences. The University has its Campus at Trincomalee which has two Faculties and a Unit namely Faculty of Communication and Business Studies, Faculty of Applied Science and Siddha Medicine Unit. The Swamy Vipulanantha Institute of Aesthetic Studies (SVIAS) at Kallady, Batticaloa had been attached to the Eastern University from 2005. At present the Courses of Study at Eastern University are Medicine, Nursing, Agriculture, Biological Science, Physical Science, Management, Commerce, Arts, Communication, Siddha Medicine, Computer Science, Music, Dance, Drama & Theatre Arts and Visual & Technological Arts. The University at present has the following student numbers: Internal - 2420, External – 2790, Postgraduates – 175, SVIAS - 350, Trinco Campus - 327. In addition 998 students have registered with Eastern University for the first year of study in the Academic year 2008/2009. The University has produced around 3976 graduates since its inception. Around 417 academic and non academic staff members are attached to the Eastern University at present. In addition Temporary, Contract and Casual employees are also working in the University. The University had celebrated its 25 years Silver Jubilee in the year 2006.

The Faculties also provide opportunities for students to follow postgraduate degree programmes in various disciplines namely M.Phil and Ph.D in Faculty of Science, M.A, M.Phil, M.Ed and Ph.D in Faculty of Arts and Culture, PGDM, MBA and MDE in

Faculty of Commerce and Management and M.Sc in Faculty of Agriculture. The University has established national and international academic collaboration with various universities and the MoUs have been signed in this regard for the development of teaching, undergraduate & postgraduate studies and research in the University. The Annual Research Sessions and the Faculty Research Forums have been organized annually in the University to encourage the staff to carry out research and to enable them to present their research findings. The Faculty Journals and Magazines are also published periodically in the Faculties of the University.

1.3 External Degree Programme

The Eastern University has launched the programmes of External Degrees and Diplomas in all Faculties. The Faculties offer the External Degree Programmes to students who are qualified and are unable to enter the University due to the insufficiency of resources in the country. This programme is similar to Internal Degree Programme and covers the features like provision of lesson materials and tutorials, opportunities to follow theory and practical classes at the University, offering inter-faculty courses which enhance employment opportunities and access to the Library and IT facilities. All External Degree Programmes have been brought to function under one umbrella and the activities are carried out by the Center for External Studies.

1.4 The Library

The Library at Eastern University with branch Libraries at the Faculty of Health Care Sciences, Trincomalee Campus and SVIAS provide excellent services to the staff and students of the University. In addition to old editions the Library has the recent editions of almost all books required for undergraduate and postgraduate studies. The main Library of the entire University is housed in renovated old complex which is hardly adequate to cater the needs of the increasing student and staff population. Although the Library has adequate number of books and periodicals the space to house them is inadequate.

1.5 Centers and Units

The Center for Information and Communication Technologies (CICT), Eastern University conducts various courses in Computer Science and Information Technology to all Faculties of the University. In addition the Center conducts Certificate and Diploma courses during week ends and vacations. The Computer Network System maintained by the Centre is in operation in the University and the Center functions as the Service Center for providing internet and intranet facilities to the Faculties, Departments, Branches and Units of the University.

The English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU) of the University provides service to all Faculties and it is set up for the specific purpose of teaching English for the undergraduate students who enter the University with varying level of proficiency in English. In addition ELTU also conducts Certificate and Diploma Programme in English for students and staff. In order to help students to attain a high level of proficiency in English the ELTU conducts an intensive course in English before students follow lectures in their respective disciplines and also throughout their study programmes.

The Staff Development Center(SDC), The Center for External Degrees(CES), Career Guidance Unit(CGU), Center for Sustainable Agriculture Resource Management (CENSARM), Center for Aquatic and Resource Management(CARM), Center for Early Childhood Development(CECCD), Center for Social Research and Development(CSRD), Centre for Competency based Economics through Formation of

Enterprises (CEFE), Extramural Studies Unit, Internal Quality Assurance Unit and Environmental Testing Unit are the other Centers and Units established in the University to carry out activities in relation to community development programmes, Certificate and Diploma Programmes and research. The Local Technical Secretariat LTS, IRQUE Project also provides significant contribution to improve the relevance and quality of undergraduate teaching.

1.6 Students and Staff Facilities

Two male hostels and two female hostels are available for the students of the University and residence facilities are also provided for the staff as well. The University health service provided by the Medical Center of the University is available to the staff and students to receive immediate medical assistance. The sports facilities including Gymnasium are available in the University to the staff and students. The students and staff of the University actively participate in the national and international sports tournaments and received many awards. Facilities also have been provided to the staff and students for their religious activities. The Mahapola scholarship programme and Bursary scheme are the two major sources that provide financial assistance to the University students.

1.7 New Building Structures

The building space at present for all Faculties, Administration, Centers, Units, Library, Lecture halls, Hostels and Sports is hardly enough to satisfy the needs of the growing University and they are still cramped up within a limited space. The University has already taken steps to construct new building structures for Faculty of Science, Faculty of Arts and Culture, Faculty of Commerce and Management, Faculty of Health Care Sciences, Library, Auditorium, SVIAS and Trincomalee Campus. The progress of the building projects was badly hampered due to the prevailed situation in the region and the limitation of state funds. A new building with all modern facilities has been constructed for the Center for Information and Communication Technology (CICT) in the University.

2. UNIVERSITY GOALS AND CORPORATE PLANNING

2.1 Introduction

It is important for a Higher Educational Institute to have clear defined Vision and Mission with a well developed Corporate Plan for its future plans and development. There is urgency in the drive to convert plans and proposals into concrete action to achieve objectives of the Corporate Plan.

This five year Corporate Plan of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka for the period 2009 – 2013 has been developed through extensive consultative process involving all academic and administrative staff of the University. The proposed many programmes in the first Corporate Plan covering the period 2003 - 2007 did not materialize due to the limitation and restriction in financial and human resources which were beyond the control of the University.

This Corporate Plan clearly outlines the University's strategic objectives in accordance with the Vision, Mission and goals of the University and describes the major programmes for the implementation during the period 2009 – 2013. This plan also contains time-bound action plan for each of the programmes and required financial and human resources if necessary for the successful implementation of the programme.

2.2 Goals and Objectives of the Corporate Plan of the University

GOAL 1: To pursue excellence in teaching, research and dissemination of knowledge

Objective 1: To revitalize the study programs to produce employable graduates in response to the changing needs of the, nation and globe.

Objective 2: To improve the relevance and of the Curricula

Objective 3: To enhance the research capacity of the institution

Objective 4: To encourage dissemination of knowledge

GOAL 2: To enhance the institutional capacity through human resource, infrastructure and other resource development

Objective 1: To upgrade the academic knowledge of the staff.

Objective 2: To secure and improve infrastructure and other resources for strengthening the capacity of the institution

GOAL 3: To serve socio economic and cultural needs of the community

Objective 1: To provide opportunities

Objective 2: To preserve and enrich the tradition, culture and human values of the community

GOAL 4: To maintain and enhance good governance

Objective 1: To utilize the resources effectively and efficiently

Objective 2: To enhance social harmony among stakeholders.

Strategies have been developed to achieve the said objectives through appropriate action plan. The Corporate Plan 2009-2013 is included in Part II of this report (Appendices) for further reference in details.

2.3 The Vision and the Mission of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka

2.3.1 VISION

Eastern University, Sri Lanka aims to be a national centre of excellence for higher learning and research with a competitive advantage, responsive to the dynamics of the regional and global conditions.

2.3.2 MISSION

The mission is to pursue excellence in teaching, research and dissemination of knowledge through enhancing the institutional capacity, human resource and infrastructure development and good governance to serve socio economic and cultural need of the community.

2.4 The Organization Structure of the University

The organization structure of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka (Figure 01) is similar to that of conventional universities. The post of the Chancellor is an honorary post while the Vice-Chancellor is the principal executive officer. The Registrar is responsible for the custody of the records and the property of the university and its general administration. The Officers of the University are the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar, the Deans of Faculties, the Librarian and the Bursar.

At the apex is the Council of the University which is responsible for its overall management. This is chaired by the Vice –Chancellor. The Council of the EUSL consists of ten EUSL members and eleven outside members appointed by the UGC from among persons who have rendered distinguished services in Educational Professional Commercial, Industrial, Scientific or Administrative spheres. The Council is responsible for the overall management of the university including its systemic efficacy effectiveness and quality. It is also the Council of the university that finally approves its Corporate Plan, Annual Report, and other major documents that deal with Administration and Management of the university.

The EUSL has its academic and administrative arms, which are responsible for quality management and administration. The overall responsibility for “Quality Assurance” rests with the Senate of the university. As academic responsibilities are decentralized to the faculties, the Faculty Boards are operationally responsible and accountable for ensuring quality at the lowest levels. The EUSL has five faculties, each of which is headed by the Dean of the Faculty. Meanwhile the Registrar of the University manages administrative functions including Student Affairs, Finances, Examination and Human Resources.

Within this structure the faculties are conceived as the main building blocks of academic administration. Apart from the academic departments, there are other units that are under the guidance of the vice-Chancellor of the University. The overall quality of management of the EUSL is excessively dependent on the capacity and efficacy of the academic departments.

In attempting to meet the demands for universalisation of education, equality in educational opportunities and provision of lifelong education, EUSL offers many Programmes and courses. The programmes are conducted by the five faculties viz through Departments of Study (Figure 1).

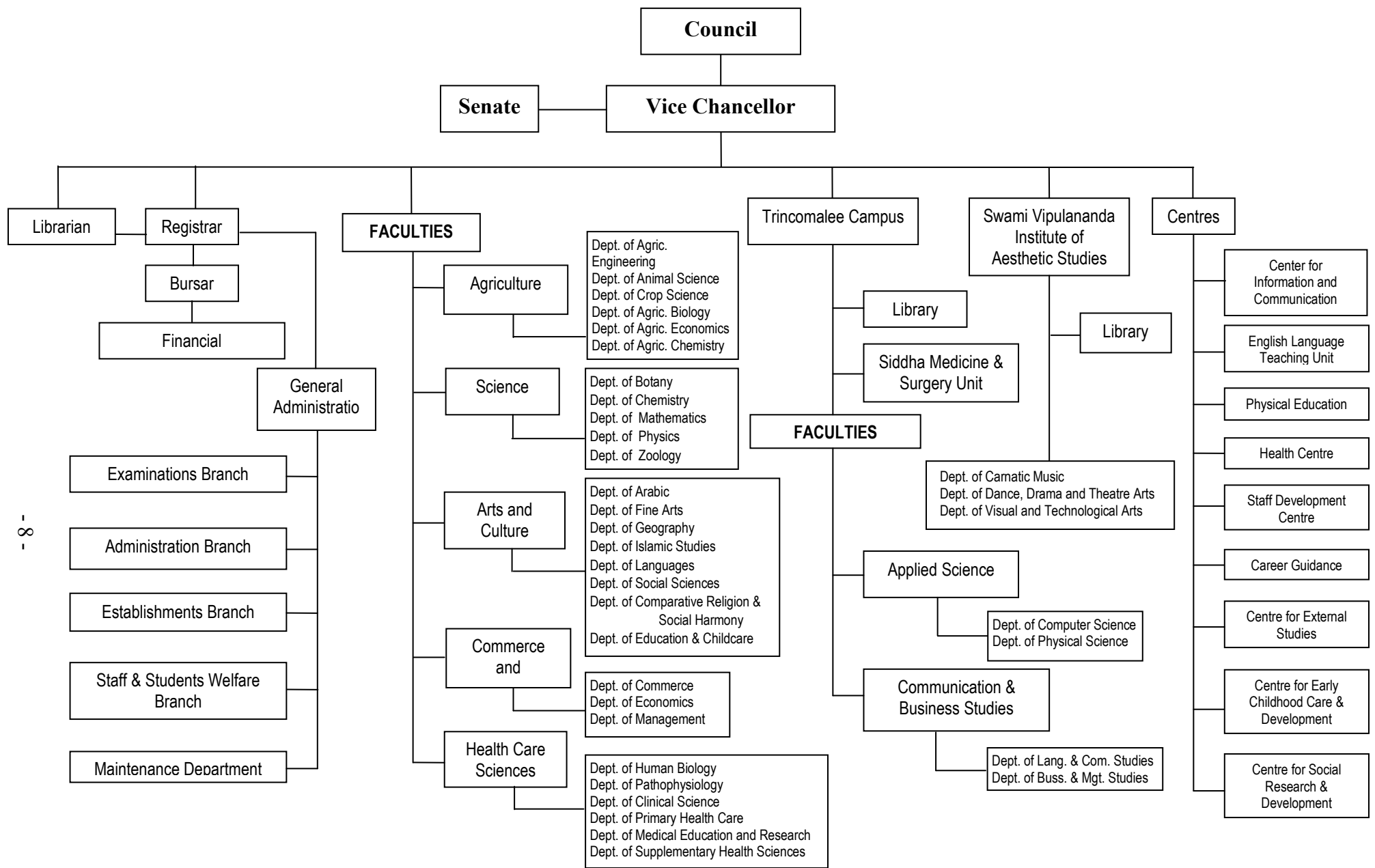


Figure 1: Organization Chart of Eastern University, Sri Lanka

2.5 Infrastructure Facilities and Student Support

Study System

The university provides education facilities to all the internal students allocated and admitted by the UGC. The external degree programmes includes specially designed printed lesson material for a self learner, discussion and classes, seminars, workshops, tutorial classes, laboratory and field work, e-mail and internet. The printed material offers the student the equivalent of lectures and tutorials. Students are provided with lesson material throughout the course.

Teaching also includes a system of continuous assessments, assignments, tests, project work etc. The assessments have a dual purpose viz. a tool as well as a means of helping the students to assess their own progress. Assignments are marked and returned to the student. The continuous assessment component also forms a part of the overall mark of the final examination.

Counseling of students in the appropriate selection of courses in selection of General/Special degree programme are provided by all faculties.

Programmes

The university has progressively increased the number of programmes offered at its inception to around 45. These programmes range from conventional, non-conventional, job oriented to continuing further education. The programmes are at Certificate, Diploma, Degree and Postgraduate level which provide an opportunity for entry at different levels.

Outreach

The university is located on 126 acres land at Vantharumoolai, Chenkalady. Academic and Administrative Secretariats have been established in the Old Complex area and the faculty complexes are proposed to built in the New Complex area. All facilities to students and staff are arranged in the university complex areas.

Collaboration and Partnerships

The EUSL considers collaboration and partnership with other institutions to be of great importance in developing curricula for programmes of study, staff development as well as the development of infrastructure. The university collaborates with the conventional universities, research institutes, the corporate sector and NGOs. The EUSL has established strong links with several universities overseas, both conventional and open in India, Thailand and Norway.

Community services

The provision of educational facilities to students through external mode is in itself a huge community service. Students have the opportunity to learn English language and Information Technology. Another community service provided by the EUSL is to maintain model pre-schools in and around Batticaloa for the benefit of the children and people of the area. The CICT of EUSL is actively engaged in providing several community services.

3. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

3.1 Financial Resources

Financial Resources of the Eastern University Sri Lanka include

1. Treasury Grant
2. Self financing activities such as:
 - External Degree
 - Extension courses
 - Post Graduate Degree Programme
 - Sale of Farm Produce
 - Consultant fees
3. Foreign funded projects
 - IRQUE (World Bank funded) project
 - CIDA (Canadian funded) project
 - NUFU (Norwegian funded) project

These funds are managed separately according their specific rules and regulations. These are considered as gifts.

3.2 The Resources Allocation Procedure

Two main components are maintained in resource allocation procedure.

a. Recurrent

- 60% - for the salaries and wages
- 20% - for supplies and services
- 10% - Electricity, Water supply and Communication
- 10% - Transport & other utilities

b. Capital

- 40% - Rehabilitation & Improvement of Assets
- 50% - Acquisition of Assets
- 10% - Books & Periodicals

Rehabilitation & Improvement of Assets is handled by the Maintenance Department. Allocation for acquisition of fixed assets are distributed as follows:

General Administration	- 25%
Faculty of Science	- 10%
Faculty of Agriculture	- 10%
Faculty of Arts & Culture	- 10%
Faculty of Commerce & Management	- 10%
Faculty of Health Care Sciences	- 10%
Physical Education Unit	- 5%
English Language Teaching Unit	- 5%
Library	- 10%
Staff Development Centre	- 3%
Career Guidance Unit	- 2%

3.3 Financial management

Financial management of the resources and the allocation procedure are clear and applied in accordance with the requirements. The responsibility is accordance with the guide lines.

The academic planning and resource allocation mechanism coordinate according to the budget.

The annual report & Financial Accounts are the evidence to show that the University uses its resources effectively to achieve its academic objectives. (These will be made available to the review committee on visit to EUSL).

Eastern University, Sri Lanka has very limited financial resources. It depends mostly on the treasury grants. During the past five years Treasury has not released the full allocation; mainly capital allocation was not granted. As such the capital purchase was not made according to the plan. However we were managing with the limited available resources giving priority to urgent important items.

Table 1: Allocation released and received from the Treasury during the period 2007-2009 in LKR

Year	Recurrent		Capital		Total Actual Received
	Released	Received	Released	Received	
2007	313,500,000.00	304,000,000.00	304,000,000.00	125,850,000.00	429,850,000.00
2008	312,500,000.00	296,500,000.00	148,750,000.00	105,000,000.00	401,500,000.00
2009	318,761,000.00	314,061,000.00	134,116,000.00	129,333,000.00	443,394,000.00

3.4 Delegation of Financial Power

The Financial Management of the Eastern University primarily depends on the delegation of the financial power.

The Council of the EUSL at its 209th meeting held on 31.10.2009 has approved the “Delegation of Financial Powers” of the Officers of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka. This “Delegation of Financial Powers” will come into operation with effect from 01.01.2010.

The Council of the EUSL reserves the right to revise this “Delegation of Financial Powers” or to revoke the authority delegated to any officers.

3.4.1 Officers of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka

The Officers of the University listed below are empowered with varying authorities.

- a. The Vice-Chancellor
- b. The Rector of the Campus
- c. The Dean of each Faculty
- d. The Registrar
- e. The Librarian
- f. The Bursar

- i. Chief Accounting Officer**
Secretary to the Ministry of Higher Education is the Chief Accounting Officer of the University.
- ii. Accounting Officer**
The Vice Chancellor is the Accounting Officer of the University.
- iii. Accounting Officer**
Registrar is the Assistant Accounting Officer of the University
- iv. Custodian of Funds**
The Bursar is the Custodian of the funds of the University.
- v. Administration of the finance of the University**
It is the duty of the Bursar to administering the funds of the University, subject to the provision in the Universities Act and subject to the direction and control of the Registrar.

3.4.2 Delegation of Financial Authority

The Council of the EUSL in terms of sub section 02 of section 45 of the Universities Act No: 16 of 1978 delegates Financial Authority to the following officers as per the schedule and subject to the limit set against their designation.

Officers

1. Vice Chancellor
2. Rector
3. Deans
4. Registrar
5. Librarian
6. Bursar

The six officers in line (I) and their subordinates in line (II) had been delegated authority by the Council as indicated. The Financial limit laid down in the delegation will not allow the officers concerned to authorize or subject to the operation of the Hand Book (see Figure 2).

(Please find a document on delegation of financial power Eastern University, Sri Lanka in Part II of the Self Evaluation Report for the Institutional Review/ Appendices)

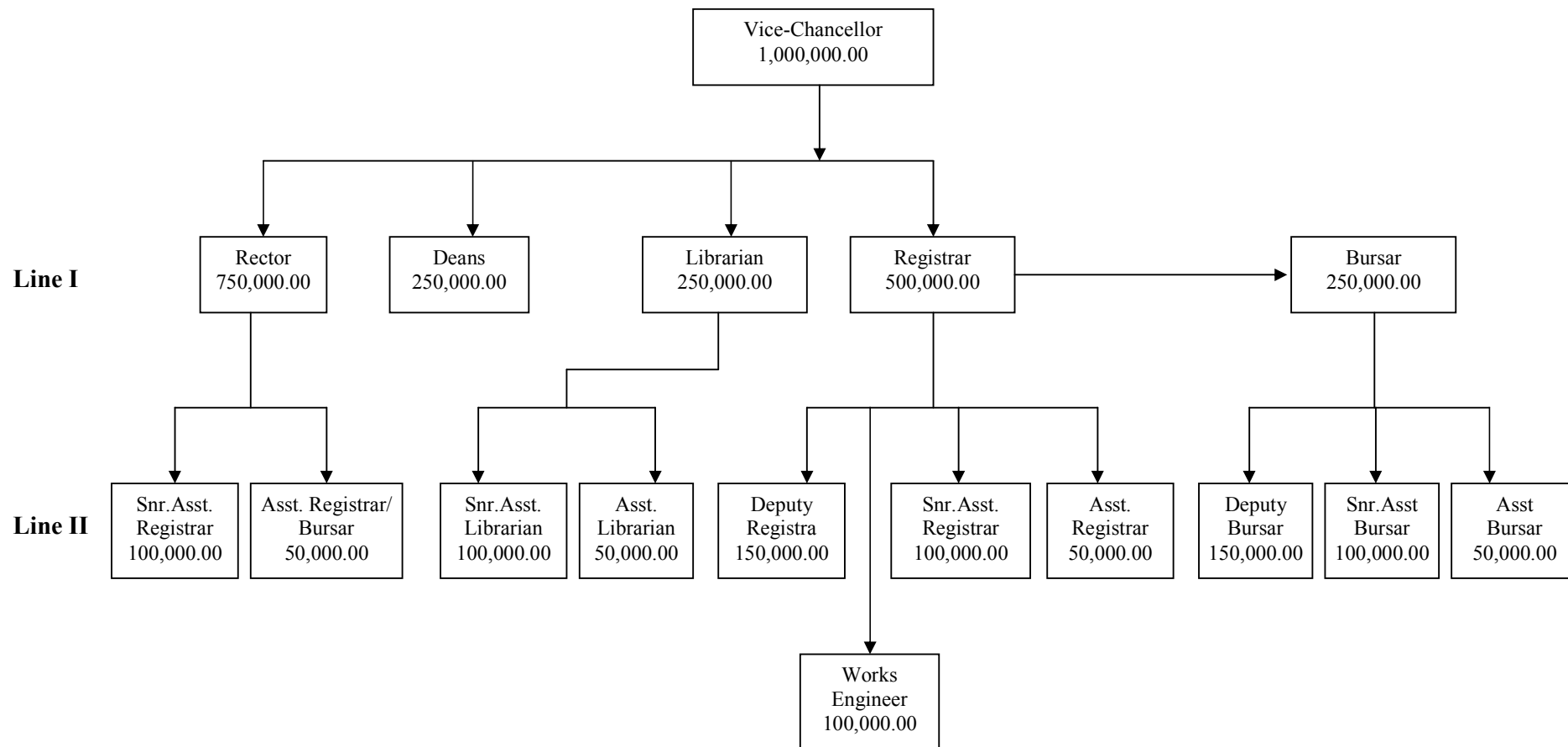


Fig. 2: Delegation of Financial Authority schedule with limits (LKR)

4. RESEARCH

4.1 Background

Undertaking research at the university is an integral part of its' major academic functions, along with teaching which is its' primary goal. Eastern University, Sri Lanka has been involved in research, both fundamental and applied, since its' inception in 1981. The flame for quality scientific research was lightened by the late Prof.K.D.Arudpragasam, Vice Chancellor, EUSL (1986-1990), when he suggested the idea of staff being involved in research and presenting papers at national and international forums at a meeting of the Senate. He reiterated the importance of research among academic staff, leaving aside teaching, and encouraged them to become members of scientific organizations and to participate in conferences and symposiums in Sri Lanka, and abroad.

A big boost for university academic staff research was provided by Prof.M.Mookaiah, Vice Chancellor (2000-2004), when he inaugurated the Annual Research Sessions (ARS) in 2000 at Eastern University. Research Grants were provided by the university to staff to undertake research and to present their findings at the Annual Research Sessions. This encouraged many senior and junior staff to get involved in research, and to disseminate their findings at the ARS, EUSL; and at national level such as the Annual Sessions of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS).

The UGC's allocation of funds for research at the university level has been very minimal for the last few decades. Along side with minimal funding from the university, senior academic staff members had also been able to secure funds from outside sources for research, such as the National Science Foundation (NSF), Colombo; Council for Agricultural Research Policy (CARP), Colombo; International Foundation for Science (IFS), Sweden; SAREC, Sweden, etc. The need to allocate more funds for research is undoubtedly an urgent force to encourage especially young staff to get involved in research.

Although, in the early 80's, Eastern University did not have the required infrastructure (laboratories) and equipments for conducting research, it later was able to construct laboratories and acquire needed equipments with funds allocated by the UGC and other external sources of funding. The Faculties of Science and Agriculture are quite well equipped to conduct fairly good quality research, both fundamental and applied. Qualified senior academic staff availability too has enhanced the research capacity of the above mentioned two faculties. There are junior staffs who are currently doing postgraduate studies and their completion of the degrees would help further improve the research capability at Eastern University.

There is need for the university to provide opportunities to junior staff to obtain postgraduate training abroad to enhance their research skills and to handle sophisticated research equipments vital for conducting quality interdisciplinary research. Link projects with foreign universities could be an approach to fill the above vacuum.

4.2 University's Research Objectives and Policy

At a Senate meeting of the university there was a general consensus that research should focus on both fundamental and applied aspects. The overall research objectives of the university are:

1. To conduct fundamental/primary research,
2. To conduct applied research which are problem solving,
3. To develop technologies suitable for the region, and
4. To carry out crop varietals trials.

The university policy on research is to encourage academic staff research at all levels, allocate moderately sufficient funds to conduct research, and to foster collaborative research with other universities and research institutes/organizations. In this context, the university through its Faculties and research centers had signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's) to address certain research needs of the institutes or organizations concerned. This was also an avenue through which the university had aimed at securing funds for research.

The Senate also formed a Research and Publications Grants Committee to approve and oversee the disbursement of research funds allocated by the university annually. The committee was also entrusted with task of monitoring the progress of research and publications grants provided to academic staff annually.

4.3 Faculty Student Research

4.3.1 Undergraduate Student Research

Final year Special degree undergraduate students are required to conduct a small scale research project of 3 to 4 months duration, which is supervised by senior academic staff members of the respective faculty concerned and to submit a research report. Both basic and applied research have been conducted by the students, and the findings had been disseminated through presentations made at both the university ARS, Undergraduate Research Forum and at national symposiums and conferences.

4.3.2 Postgraduate Student Research

Postgraduate students are required to submit a thesis upon completion of a research project of at least two semesters duration in all the faculties. Students are required to identify an area of research guided by their Supervisors, which is of relevance to the area or of national interest. Postgraduate students research includes one PhD research in 2002, 2 M.Phil research in 2006, 17 M.Sc research in 2007 and 23 M.Education in 2008. Some of the postgraduate research have been presented at national conferences and published in journals.

4.5.2 Infrastructure and Equipments

In relation to infrastructure facilities for research, a few laboratories have been constructed in the faculties of Agriculture and Science for staff and student use. There are also central laboratories such as the Computer Lab and the GIS Lab (at an infant stage of development) used for research. There is an urgent need to further expand the laboratory facilities for research, especially the GIS Laboratory, to enhance the research capability.

4.5.3 Purchase of Journals, Publications and Internet facilities

The university had from its inception provided funds for the purchase of many local and a few international journals for the Library, to be used by staff and students. This has helped researchers enormously to improve research skills, and to identify avenues to disseminate their research findings. Recently, the provision of Internet facilities to the Departments and links with other institutes/organizations has made possible for staff and students to browse through e-Journals and to access research literature. There is a need to subscribe to e-Journals relevant to the fields of study in the university, and funding has been a major bottleneck to achieve this. A summary of the library resources: journals and Internet access to e-Journals, is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Resources for research available and accessible at EUSL Library

Subject	Printed Journals	e-Journals (Links)	Subscribed databases
1. Agriculture	50	18	5
2. Science	35	59	5
3. Economics	06	-	3
4. Business	02	-	3
5. Geography	01	-	-
6. Computer Science	01	-	3
7. Hinduism	07	-	-
8. Christianity	02	-	-
9. Social Sciences	02	-	5

(Source: Library, EUSL, 2009)

4.6 University Encouragement

The university has been encouraging research among the academic staff members in various ways, some of which is outlined below.

1) Annual Research Sessions (ARS)

The Annual Research Sessions, initiated in year 2000, is a forum organized by the university annually to help junior and senior staff members to disseminate their research findings. Many staff members have continuously participated and presented their research output at the ARS. This has also encouraged junior staff to get involved in research. The summary of research presented at the Annual Research Session (ARS) is given in Table 4.

Table 4: Summary of Research presented at Annual Research Sessions at EUSL from 2000 to 2008

Year	ARS No	Number of Papers presented					
		AG	AC	SC	CM	OTH	TOTAL
2000	1	05	01	05	01	-	12
2001/2002	2	09	03	04	04	-	20
2003/2004	3	07	-	04	03	02	16
2005	4	16	12	07	02	03	40
2006	5	06	05	12	05	05	33
2007	6	09	02	08	01	11	31
2008	7	24	04	01	01	06	36
2009	8	21	08	01	08	16	54

Note:- AG - Agriculture, AC - Arts and Culture, SC - Science, CM - Commerce and Management, OTH - Others

2) Research Grants

Research Grants were disbursed to senior academic staff members for undertaking research at the university, with available facilities. Initially the university set aside about Rs.1,000,000 from the general funds to be used to provide research grants. This had helped many staff who was unable to obtain outside sources of research funding to undertake basic research work.

3) Publication Grants

Publications Grants too were given to senior academic staff members for publishing books, lecture notes for students, compilation of essays, etc., authored or edited by them. This facility has been used by staff to publish some books which are used by staff and students. Details of Research and Publications Grants are provided in Table 5.

Table 5: Summary of Research presented at Annual Research Sessions at EUSL from 2005 to 2008

Year	Research Grants (LKR)	Publication Grants (LKR)
1. 2005	219,325	415,000
2. 2006	85,000	401,250
3. 2007	100,000	96,500
4. 2008	278,831	83,000

(Source: SAR/Exams, EUSL, 2009)

4.7 Dissemination of Research Results

University staff research has been disseminated in various forms, such as Symposium, Conferences, Annual Research Sessions, and Journal papers; both local and international. Some research has been presented at Seminars and Workshops at the university, and at regional meetings.

4.8 Completion of research projects

Most of the research projects undertaken by staff have been completed on time. In very exceptional cases were there delays experienced by some staff in completing the research due to certain problems, such as delays in getting chemicals, transport shortage, labour problems and sudden cost increases of inputs. The Deans and Heads of Departments have been involved in monitoring the progress of research activities of the Faculties and Departments concerned.

4.9 Monitoring and Evaluation of research

Monitoring and evaluation of research has been done by the Head of the Dept. concerned where the research is conducted and also the Dean of the respective Faculties. Research undertaken through grants provided by the Research and Publications Committee is monitored by the Committee, and Progress reports have to be submitted by the researcher's once in every 6 months.

4.10 Link between Research and Teaching

Although much of the research conducted is not linked to teaching, to some extent a substantial part of research in agriculture and science is taught and disseminated to students as lectures and in practical classes. Mostly it is the Final Year Special degree students who are exposed to the major research results of staff. Some of the research methods developed is also used by students in their research activities. Many a research finding of staff is cited by students in their research proposal literature review, and also in student Seminar presentations.

5. QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Policies

The objectives of the university which are very unique and suitable forever are very clear and simply defined as follows:

- ❖ Eastern University, Sri Lanka aims to be a national centre of excellence for higher learning and research with a competitive advantage, responsive to the dynamics of the regional and global condition.
- ❖ The purposes of the Eastern University, Sri Lanka are to pursue excellence in teaching, research and scholarship, to offer through its internal and external faculties, campuses and other facilities, an unsurpassed range of opportunities for education and training to all those who will be able to benefit, to enhance public welfare, prosperity and culture by encouraging applications of learning and research; and to secure and administer resources to achieve these aims effectively.

All academic policies are being formulated by the respective faculties on the guidelines issued from the Government, the line Ministry, the UGC and of the university towards the objectives of the University after considering the necessary requirements of the national and the global needs. Administrative policies/procedures are made when and where necessary by the appropriate bodies in the university other than the instructions from the Government, the line Ministry and the UGC. As it is in the hierarchical system the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar, the Bursar, the Librarian, and the Dean of a faculty, and the Head of the Department of each faculty are responsible and to be communicated for any matters in the university.

The University has very clear policies to achieve its objectives and it has been clearly specified. The university has enough potential and well trained staff to contribute in formulating policies to achieve the objectives successfully. The university has been implementing suitable strategies time to time by introducing new programs and courses of studies and necessary actions are also being taken for revising/updating the existing program of studies to match with the global market.

However, the University has been facing tremendous challenges in obtaining all sorts of required resources from its inception towards the development of the University in achieving its objectives.

The Council of the university is the supreme body to discuss/initiate/formulate/recommend/approve any matters related to all academic and administrative issues. The Senate and its sub committees, the faculty boards and other ad-hoc committees are also the authoritative bodies in decision taken processes. These bodies and its chairpersons and the members of these bodies are responsible to monitor all the activities in the university. All members of such bodies have the freedom to suggest/discuss/propose relevant matters in the decision taken process and have the right to discuss any matters vice-versa irrespective of their Dept. /Faculty.

5.2 Quality Management

The responsibilities of all officers/staff members of the university have been defined officially by the universities act and the authorities of the university, wherever necessary. These may be by guide lines/regulations/circular instructions/order made by the relevant authorities. The university has made certain facilities to improve the standard of academic qualities by way of sending staff for local/overseas with short/long term training/workshops/ seminars/discussions/presentations and other programs. The university is also providing limited research grants to academic staffs to do continuous research and present papers/ publish articles/books. The funds may be obtained from both government allocations and self generated funds. Their works have continuously been monitoring by the Research committee, the finance committee, the senate and by the council by evaluating their regular reports and recommendations of the relevant bodies.

6. QUALITY ASSURANCE

6.1 Quality Assurance Unit

Since the establishment of the Quality Assurance Unit which was the requirement of the Quality Assurance and Accreditation (QAA) council of the University Grants Commission, this unit has been more concentrated on the awareness Programme on subject Review. The continuous programme of this nature made the faculties as well as departments to realize the necessity of having a self-evaluation for the respective departments. As a whole this university consists of 28 departments including 02 service departments in which 21 departments have submitted their self-evaluation report for which all have been reviewed and the faculty of Agriculture, Commerce & Management and Science has received their composite reports as well. It was also notable that the Faculty of Agriculture completed all their subject reviews before other faculties. As the faculty of Health-Care Sciences was relatively very newly established faculty it was decided for a programme evaluation rather than subject review assessment. Four departments (04) that belong to the faculty of Communication & Business studies and Applied sciences (excluded in the number of 28) are in the preparation process of the self-evaluation reports. The judgment received for the subject review conducted indicates 38% as good, 49% as satisfactory and 13% as unsatisfactory. (see Table 6)

This Unit comprise of six (06) members representing all the faculties which is guided by the chairman with a secretary and one member from each faculty, campus and SVIAS. In the agenda of Senate the quality assurance is a regular item and the activities of this unit is reported by the Chairman.

6.1.1 Activities

Quality Assurance and Accreditation (QAA) council has conducted eight (08) workshops through this unit in the university premises which includes subject review process in universities (03), Performance indicators in Higher Education (01), students feedback and observation (02), Research Methodology (01) and QA related specific issues (01). There are also numbers of work shops that have been attended by the members of this unit as well as representatives from the university which includes internal quality assurance in Universities and subject reviewers training Programme. (see Table 7)

6.1.2 Contribution

This University has also contributed to the task of the Quality Assurance and Accreditation (QAA) council in providing four subject reviewers who have reviewed and compiled reports for numbers of departments especially for universities that were established newly.

Table 6: Department Review Judgments in Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Faculty	Department	Judgment							
		A - Good		B- Satisfactory		C - Unsatisfactory			
		(1) Curriculum Design, Content and Review	(2) Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods	(3) Quality of Students Including Performance and Progression	(4) Extent of Students Feedback: Quality and Quantitative	(5) Postgraduate Studies	(6) Peer Observation	(7) Skills Development	(8) Academic Guidance and Counseling
Science	Botany (17-19/12/07)	B	A	A	C	C	B	A	B
	Zoology (23-25/07/07)	B	A	B	A	B	B	B	A
	Physics (30/06/08 - 02/07/08)	A	A	A	B	C	B	A	B
	Chemistry (24-26/11/08)	B	A	B	A	C	B	A	B
	Mathematics (19-21/01/09)	B	B	A	B	C	B	A	A
Agriculture	Animal Science (26-28/07/06)	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	A
	Agronomy (25-27/06/07)	A	B	A	B	C	C	B	A
	Agric. Economics (25-27/06/07)	B	A	A	A	C	B	B	A
Commerce & Management	Management (23-25/07/07)	A	B	B	B	B	B	A	B
	Economics (30/06/08 - 02/07/08)	B	B	A	B	A	C	B	B
	Commerce (23-25/07/07)	B	A	B	B	A	C	A	B
Arts & Culture	Languages (15-17/01/09)	A	A	A	C	B	C	B	B
	Geography (30/06/08 - 02/07/08)	A	A	A	B	B	C	A	C
	Education and Childcare (19-21/01/09)	B	B	A	B	A	A	B	B
	Comparative Religion and Social Harmony (19-21/01/09)	A	B	A	B	C	B	A	B
	Islamic Studies (23-25/07/07)	A	A	A	B	C	B	C	B
	Arabic (20-22/04/09)	To be confirmed							
	Fine Arts	To be confirmed							
	Social Science	To be confirmed							
	Hindu Civilization	To be received							
Economics	To be confirmed								

Table 7: Workshops conducted by the QAA Council

Title of Workshop Conducted	Nos.
1. QA Framework in HE	-
2. Credit and Qualifications Framework	-
3. Internal Quality Assurance in Universities	-
4. Subject Reviewers Training Programme	-
5. Subject Review Process in Universities	3
6. QA in Libraries of Sri Lankan Universities	-
7. Performance Indicators in Higher Education	1
8. Curriculum Revision and Reforms	-
9. Innovative and Interactive Teaching Methods	-
10. Student Assessments	-
11. Student Feedback and Peer Observation	2
12. Research Methodology	1
13. Academic Guidance and Counseling	-
14. Other QA related Workshop	1
TOTAL	8

6.2 Students admission

The admission of the students is basically based on “Z-score” earned at the Advance Level Examination conducted by the Education Department in Sri Lanka and UGC is the authorized body to allocate students. Our University has multiple windows for entry to the internal degree programmes, which include direct entry, through external degree, transfer from other universities etc. Faculty of Agriculture also has an scheme to admit relevant public officers on quota basis.

Table 8 includes the students profile for 3 years from the academic year 2006/2007 to 2008/2009.

Table 8: Students profile for three academic years

Faculties	2006/2007				2007/2008				2008/2009					
	T	M	S	Total	T	M	S	Total	T	M	S	Total	M	F
1. Agriculture	32	-	-	32	16	9	1	26	33	13	3	49	22	27
2. Arts and Culture	299	13	-	312	300	74	-	374	278	64	-	342	97	245
3. Commerce and Management	62	2	-	64	73	8	93	174	128	16	87	231	126	105
4. Science	56	-	-	56	33	4	77	114	28	10	-	38	19	19
5. Health Care Sciences	36	-	-	36	26	27	2	55	10	47	6	63	31	32
Total	485	15	-	500	448	122	173	743	477	150	96	723	295	428
Percentage	97	3	0		60.3	16.4	23.3		66	20.7	13.3		40.8	59.2

T: - Tamil, **M:**-Muslim, **S:**-Sinhala

M: - Male, **F:** - Female

6.3 New degree programmes and courses

New degree courses developed by the Departments/Faculties usually seek approval of the Faculty board, Senate and Standing Committees of respective Faculties of UGC and finally green light is given by UGC. However, Senate is the final approving body for Diploma and Short courses.

Development of new curricula and revision of curricula are the responsibilities of the Departments. These are precisely scrutinized by the Faculty Boards and Curriculum Evaluation Committee of the University before submitting to the Senate for approval.. It should be noted that Senate is the supreme body for all academic affairs.

6.4 Monitoring, evaluation and review

Heads of Departments, Deans of Faculties and Vice-Chancellor are more concerned to monitor and evaluate the quality assurance of the University. In addition, recently peer review, students feed back and other stake holder response are being used to monitor and evaluate to improve the quality of the academic programmes.

Assessments are the appropriate and powerful tool to motivate the learning process. Currently all the faculties are in the credit based semester system and credit value for each course unit varies from 1-3 credits on the basis of direct contact hours and practical hours in different faculties. To make more advantages to the students, our University adopts the Continuous assessment which facilitates the students in continuous study. Various methodologies are used to assess students continuously *viz.* quiz, written test, oral presentation, case studies, field reports, assignments, etc. The continuous assessment contributes up to 35% of the final marks in each course unit.

The end semester examination, accounts 65% of the total points. The question papers for the examination are moderated and answer scripts are scrutinized by a second examiner preferably from outside our University. Every Department submits the first and second examiner to the Faculty Board and Senate for approval. All examination matters are highly confidential and controlled by the Examination branch. Special degree students are to conduct research projects and submit reports as partial fulfillment of the degree, under the supervision of Senior Lecturers. (The details are available in the hand books of the Faculties).

The Examination Committee of a Faculty, encompassing the Vice Chancellor, Dean, Heads of Departments, Professors and Senior Lecturers, meets to scrutinize the marks and grades earned by the students to finalise the results of the examinations, ultimately approved by the Senate.

6.5 Recruitment of Staff

Our University strictly follows the Recruitment Scheme issued by UGC. This University has an Establishment division for this purpose. Usually the vacancies are advertised publically. The suitable applicants are called to face an interview and selection is performed by a duly composed Selection Committee, guided by the criteria laid in the scheme of recruitment and the selected candidate is initially placed under a period of probation before confirming the post.

The contribution made to teaching, research and to the development of University and national development is considered to the promotion of senior positions by means of a marking scheme provided by UGC.

The appointments of Administration and Technical staff are based on the recruitment schemes provided by UGC. Opportunities are available to them for their career development. Apparently our University is facing problems to recruit staff in both academic and non academic grades. Some academic and administrative departments are suffering from required staff strength.

The visiting lecturers from out side were reluctant to visit our university at one time due to uncertain circumstances. However, the situation is completely changed and they are in a position to visit our university to support our academic programmes currently.

6.6 Communication process

The Faculty Board, Senate and Council meetings are held in a regular fashion. In addition meetings of Library Committee, Research and Publication Committee, Administration, Audit and Management Committee, Sports Advisory Board, Tender Board, Building Committee etc are being held on a regular basis to discuss relevant matters including progress and issues. The decisions are conveyed to the staff/students by means notices/circulars. The student representation do participate in Faculty Board meetings. Local Area Network (LAN) is operating effectively for quick communication. The University web-site is well developed to provide up date information of the University and its activities.

Each Faculty is in possession of an updated Hand Book which provides most of the information needed by the students. All Faculty Boards invite two student representatives to get know about their welfare and academic requirements. Most of the Faculties follow a system to get the feed back from students by utilizing well defined questionnaires to assess the teaching and learning process.

Our University has developed a system of communication with external stake holders by means of a mechanism of inviting them for meetings and functions time to time.

7. LEARNING INFRASTRUCTURE AND STUDENT SUPPORT

7.1 Learning Support

The Eastern University is committed to excellence in learning and teaching within an environment of outstanding student support developing the confidence and employability of the students: the hallmark of the student experience at the University. Students no longer have a linear approach to education and increasingly their expectations are that there will be flexibility and support embedded in their courses. The pedagogy is dynamic and challenging. Nonetheless, in practice, academic services – libraries, key skills units, student support, Information Technology – are working innovatively across service boundaries to bring about transformations in their students' lives.

There are lectures to attend, cases to solve, patient histories to be taken and presented and projects to be prepared. The University lays a lot of emphasis on the curriculum, the course content and teaching methods. Assessment is often based on a combination of assigned course work and examination. The student is tested not only on what he/she knows, but his/her ability to apply what he/she has learnt. It is evident that student evaluation whether of courses, teaching quality or the overall student experience, is extremely important and has a significant role to play in the quality assurance process.

Overall Teaching Methodology

Teaching small classes is frequently coveted as an optimal experience for the undergraduates when faculty feel they have the time to dedicate significant attention to each student, and students feel they have adequate access to the instructor. Classroom instruction is more likely to be discussion-based, with more time given over to students. The learning styles of the students of Eastern University vary. Some students are visual learners, some are auditory learners, and others are kinesthetic learners.

Lectures are conducted in semi permanent buildings with a total floor area of 1080 sq. ft. and used by 1881 internal students (as at 31.12.2009). The capacity of the room was designed for 40 students. When the student numbers are more than 40, common places like the Main hall and Auditoriums are used for lectures. The space each student occupies in a classroom is 0.7 sq.ft.

Library Support

The library services envelop a wide range of activities to support the vision, mission and objectives of the institution, Eastern University, Sri Lanka. Support services are targeted for the present and future, teaching, learning, research and development necessities of the University.

The main library which is located in Vantharumoolai serves for the faculties of Agriculture, Arts & Culture, Commerce & Management and Science while the branch library located in the Batticaloa Town serves for the faculty of Health care Sciences. The libraries are connected to the University Local Area Network which is maintained by the Centre for Information Communication Technology (CICT) of the University.

The total strength of the library network viz., Main & Branch stands at approximately 86,000 items which extremely consists of print materials. As the Main Library is involved in the Agriculture Information Network (AGRINET) of Sri Lanka and similarly the faculty of health care Sciences Library involved in Health Literature Information Service (HELLIS) Network . Through these networks, both the libraries provide various learning support to the clients such as access to electronic databases, user awareness

seminars, selective dissemination of current content services, and document delivery services.

The main Library has installed a new library management software called LibSys 4 and the data migration is in progress. After the completion of migration process, the library will provide access to library collection through OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) to clients.

Challenges

The present floor area of Both the libraries viz Main and Branch is considerably less than the real requirements in the current situation and furthermore to synchronize with fast developing information revolution. The transformation of teaching and learning through the use of information technology also entails the transformation of scholarly literature and learning resources through the widespread implementation of electronic journals, online databases, digital library environment and other networked information services. The dynamic information environment however demands continual renewal of skills and reinterpretation of operations of library staff. The impact of this stagnation on EUSL library personnel is the reinforcement of technical – process bound approach linked to a custodial focus, and failure to make the required paradigm shift which focuses instead, on stakeholders' needs and service with the later forming the foundation.

Recommendation

The Library should be conducive for reading and consultation. And also, the University should build upon and expand its digital library program, and develop the digital library infrastructure needed to support research, teaching and learning and also needs to address holistically human resource requirements for the library and information personnel.

Support by the Information Technology

The Centre for Information and Communication Technology (CICT) consists of six computer laboratories, aims to be available for all students on all courses to allow the use of Information Technology to enhance coursework. Most students make use of the facilities in this way, whilst also utilising the Electronic Mail and World Wide Web Browsing facilities.

Advances in information technology in areas of teaching, learning and academic research are depending upon the quality of support provided for student use of computing.

Challenges

The challenge is make sure that student graduates from Eastern University having had the advantages and opportunities they need to explore information technology, especially as it relates to their chosen studies. Because the students feel that there are barriers in improving access to the teaching resources of Eastern University, providing “help desk” services to support asynchronous learning and creating a seamless environment for the development of a genuine distributed learning community Recommendation

As technology changes, smaller devices probably travel with students, who expect wireless environments, the capacity to network with other devices and display vehicles, and access to power. Rather than cumbersome rack systems and fixed ceiling – mounted projectors, learning spaces need more flexible plug – and play capabilities.

Recommendations

University wide prioritization, coordination, oversight and planning are required in the implementation and development of institutional information systems. IT support for students should include technology support centers and a computing environment that is seamless across boundaries of Campus, home, and residence hall and should implement common interfaces and a common information delivery environment that facilitate their integrated use.

English Language Teaching Unit

The ELTU is dedicated to enhance the English language ability of the students by creating conducive language learning environment and is committed to provide maximum exposure to the language concerning the national and global demands.

The internal students are able to use the language in day to day activities and for academic purposes, referring materials, answering questions, taking down notes, observing lectures delivered in English, pursuing various courses such as translation and Interpretation. Those who follow the extension courses extend the chances of getting employment opportunities, promotions in the respective careers (Also given under section 9 in details).

Laboratories

Subject Laboratory instructions are wonderful experiences for the learner, who benefits from direct application and hands on experience. There is a suite of laboratories dedicated to a particular area of specialization. Development of laboratories has been consistent with the acknowledged expertise existing within the department and is focused on the methodologies involved.

03 no of Students with disabilities are enrolled at the Eastern University and their requirements are considered on the same academic grounds as those from all other students. There are no Policies on Disabilities available at the University. Therefore, such students have to stick on with the same teaching methods which other able students follow.

Campus Safety

The University authorities take considerable measures in place to make the University as safe as possible. These include a 24 hour 365 day a year security team consists of Campus appointed staff as well as the private company staff, and 02 emergency telephone booths around Campus. The students are encouraged to take care of their belongings and provided advice in the inaugural session of their admission on what they can do to safeguard their possessions.

Physical Education

Physical Education Unit is responsible for the organization and administration of Physical Education and recreational programmes of the University. Facilities are available for indoor and outdoor sports at the main Campus at Vantharumoolai. There are two bodies, which are set up to promote sports activities at the University:

- The Sports Advisory Board
- Sports Council

The Health centre

Students who fall sick report to the Health Center for treatment. If the students who in the University Hostels are unable to come to the Health Centre for treatment, the Doctor visits them and necessary treatment provided.

The sanitation of the University premises and the Hostels is looked after by the doctor. The University canteen, the Hostel canteens and the Kitchens are visited by the Doctor and the cleanliness and any other regularities and necessities are reported to the University Registrar. Also on the inter-Faculty sports days the Doctor is present.

Students' Welfare

Students' Welfare Unit deals with scholarships, bursaries and all matters related to general welfare of students in order to enhance the learning support environment

The scholarships and financial assistance available are as follows:

1. Mahapoloa scholarship
2. Bursaries
3. Endowed scholarships
4. Students Welfare Fund
5. Eastern University Students' Fund

Student Counseling Service

A student Counselling Service organized in Universities to help new students with the transition into the University system and also to provide guidance throughout the University life. Student Counsellors are consulted to help to solve any problems related to academic, administrative, financial or personal. Each Faculty has one or more Student Counsellors. There is a Senior Student Counsellor who is overall charge of all student counseling activities.

7.2 Student Support and Guidance

There are various methods which are used to identify the learning support needs such as direct observation, interviews, questionnaires and focus groups. The Finance Committee of the Eastern University has a role in determining University priorities for strategic investment in learning support needs. The budgets for the learning support needs are set through the submission of operational plans which are designed by the respective learning support centers *viz*, Library, Center for Information Communication Technology, and other support units as part of the University's annual planning process.

According to the students' feedback, no longer will students be passively taught by teachers who organize the learning experience for them. Students like to learn how to find and use learning materials that meet their own individual learning needs, abilities, preferences, and interests; they like to learn how to learn. Therefore the faculty should encourage and guide students to use the rich information resources available to students and to work collaboratively when appropriate.

The Eastern University has a system of dialogue between its student representatives and staff involved in Management of the University. These provide an opportunity in which students can raise issues of concern on courses, programmes and learning resources or other matters affecting their student experience.

The University has a formal mechanism for the approval of new academic programmes and changes to the existing curriculum which is set out in the Curriculum Development Plan. The University's requirements of the learning support resources for the periodic review of its programmes, which runs on a quinquennial cycle, are set out in the procedures for the periodic subject review.

Each faculty has student support units responsible for the strategic development of student support systems in the University. In terms of personal support and guidance, student counselors are available within the University whose principle role is provide individual advice to students with personal or financial difficulties and those seeking advise on procedures governing general academic issues such as transfers, appeals, plagiarism, intermission.

There is a comprehensive range of institutional services which integrates with supports systems at the University level. The full range of student support is managed by the Academic and Welfare Divisions.

Learning support, advice and guidance generally takes three forms. Firstly, induction and re-induction is a key mechanism for providing advice and guidance to students on what is expected of them throughout the forthcoming year, or stage of their programme. Secondly, students are provided with advice and guidance at strategic points in each academic year when they need to choose course options. This may take the form of briefing documents or in a verbal manner. Thirdly, as the learning support resource centers, the Library Network, Centre of Information Communication Technology and the English language Teaching Unit serve the registered students.

The role and responsibilities of Academic Senior Assistant Registrar are set out in the Student Handbook called as the University Year Book which is updated annually and which provides comprehensive information for students on their responsibilities as students, the full range of services and support available, key University regulations and policy documents, progress and assessment matters and details of complaints and appeals procedures. Faculties also produce Handbooks which detail local arrangements, facilities and support for the students including more detailed information on academic advising arrangements.

7.3 Careers Guidance and Preparation

The Career Guidance Unit involves in prevision of guidance, counseling and training to undergraduates in areas such as career exploration, self assessment, career planning, job search technique requirements of the world of work today. (including CV writing, facing interviews and challenges for the aptitude test). The major objective of this unit is motivating and helping the students to seek out opportunities for developing themselves the qualities and attributes and demanded by the today's job market.

Eastern University has no standard systems on its close working relationships with business and industry and on its employment rate for its graduates.

But, if the University initiate the dynamic link with employment sector. This will demonstrate throughout the organization, from individual course links, ongoing careers and employer events, to University-wide partnerships (Also given under section 9 in details).

8. EXTERNAL DEGREE PROGRAMMES

8.1 External Degree Programme and its Objectives

The Eastern University, apart from conducting courses for undergraduates extends its facilities to the community in the region by conducting External Degree Courses, Diploma Programmes and Extension Programmes, since 1993 to provide an opportunity,

- To those who are already employed and desirous of obtaining a Degree for reasons including career advancement.
- To the local community to follow these studies in their home town itself instead of traveling to far off places.

Though the institute is conducting all type of courses such as Diploma Programmes and Extension Programmes, the Centre for External Studies handle only the external Degree Programmes. (See Table 9)

Table 9: Faculties and their external degree courses

Faculties	Degree Courses
Faculty of Agriculture	• Bachelor of Science (Agriculture)
Faculty of Arts & Culture	• Bachelor of Arts (B.A)
Faculty of Commerce & Management	• Bachelor of Business Administration (B.BA)
Faculty of Health Care Sciences	• Bachelor of Nursing (B.Sc Nursing)
Faculty of Science	• Bachelor of Science (B.Sc - Bio. Sc) • Bachelor of Science (B.Sc - Phy. Sc)

8.2 External Degree Courses

External Degree Courses offered by the University are given in Table 10.

The medium of instruction of the Degree Programme offered by the Faculties of Agriculture, Science and Health Care Sciences is English. But the medium of instruction at Faculties of Arts & Culture and Commerce & Management is only Tamil.

The External Degree Programme in Commerce & Management, Science and Agriculture were started in 1993, while the programme in Arts and culture was started in 1996.

After two batches of students the conducting of the External Degree Programme in Agriculture was suspended in 1998 due to the poor response from students but this programme has been re-commenced from 2006.

The B.Sc.(Nursing) programme was started in 2007.

8.3 Strength of External Studies

Number of students who have enrolled for various programmes up to 2009 are as follows:

Table 10: Student number in different external degree courses

Degree Courses	Number of Students
Bachelor of Science(Agriculture)	40
Bachelor of Arts(B.A)	1597
Bachelor of Business Administration (B.BA)	231
Bachelor of Economics (B.Eco.)	09
Bachelor of Nursing (B.Sc Nursing)	48
Bachelor of Science (B.Sc - Bio.& Phy)	68
Total	1993

The Number of External Graduates passed out so far are 742.

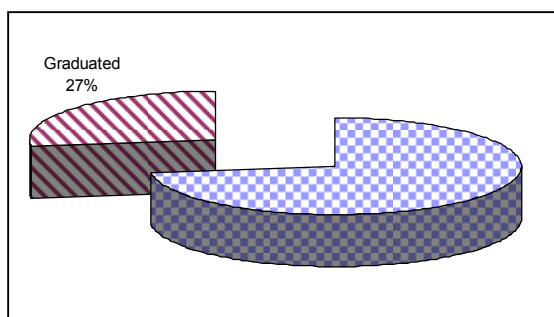


Fig 4: Projection of students completed the degree

8.4 The Staff position

Asst. Registrar	-	01
Clerk	-	02 (1 permanent & 1 contract)
Office Machine Operator	-	01
Labourer	-	01

8.5 Management Structure

The External Degree Programmes were managed by the External Degrees Unit since 1993. However, all these programmes were brought under the Centre for External Studies from mid 2006 and managed by a Board of Management under the leadership of a Director, CES.

A constitution for the Centre has been drawn and the Centre functions according to the constitution.

8.6 Future Strategy

A building at Pillaiyarady, near the Pillaiyarady School, is being put up to house the Center for External Studies, where classes for the students and distribution of lesson materials will take place in future. The examinations for the students too could be conducted in the halls of the Pillayarady School.

We are also planning to commence the external degree course in Aesthetic Studies in the near future.

9. UNIVERSITY/INDUSTRY/COMMUNITY/OTHER EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Many units and centres are functioning under the umbrella of EUSL to interact with communities and each of which has its own vision, mission and objectives and conduct activities to provide knowledge and develop skill of the community.

9.1 CENSARM

Introduction

The Centre for Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management established as a unit under the Faculty of Agriculture of the Eastern University in the year 1996 to facilitate the work with community, especially in the eastern region for the sustainable development of farming community to capturing and utilizing the natural and human resources.

Objectives

- Planning and execution of Research into the development of technologies and Resource Management systems which will integrate and optimize use of resources so as to ensure their renewability and therefore sustainability of production.
- Production of a participatory approach to utilization, management and conservation of the land, water, forest, livestock and fisheries resources of the region; with emphasis on the participation of women.
- Protection of the environment.
- Conducting of Diploma and Short Term courses on Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management for persons engaged in Agriculture and Rural development programmes.
- Carrying out farm surveys and compiling inventories of the land, water, forest, livestock and fisheries resources of the eastern region.
- Providing consultancy services and dissemination of information on Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (SARM) by organizing Seminars, Workshops, Symposiums etc.
- Collaborating with other Institutions with similar objectives –both within Sri Lanka and overseas – to achieve the above aims

Composition of Board

- Chairman
- Director
- Bursar
- Members

Activities

The CENSARM conducted the following Seminars, Workshops and Training Programs since its establishment:

- Seminar on Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Management (SARM)
- Symposium on “Current Situation of National Paper Company–An Outlook”
- Workshop in “Alternative Energy Sources”
- Workshop in “Green Productivity”
- Symposium on Recent Trends in Rice Production
- Training Programme on Sustainable Agricultural System (SAS)

Other Activities

- Conducting Diploma course in Sustainable Farming
- Operating Seed Testing and Marketing Unit
- Operating Poultry Hatchery Unit.
- Short course in poultry husbandry.

Research Projects

There are short term and long term Research Projects undertaken by CENSARM into the development of technologies and resource management systems.

Establishment and economic feasibility of energy forest (Dendro power) with Glycirdia as base crop

This research showed that significant quantity of fuel wood could be obtained annually from Glyricidea grown on sandy soil (regosols) to generate energy.

Development of new crop varieties

New crop varieties in okra (Lady's finger) and brinjal have been developed through crop breeding programmes to cater the needs of the farmers.

9.2 Competency Based Economics through the formation of Enterprises (CEFE)

Introduction

CEFE- EUSL, as a self-financing body, was established in the mid 1998 at Eastern University, Sri Lanka with a view of promoting small business enterprises, which contribute substantially to the development of Sri Lanka.

Vision

To be the excellent provider of entrepreneurial training in the region

Mission

To be the versatile provider of excellence in entrepreneurial training and business promotion and creating opportunities for all in the region

Services Provided by the CEFE - EUSL

Training

- New Business Creation Training
- Idea Generation for Businessman
- Business Training for Farmers and Agricultural Producers
- Preparing Business Plan
- Training for Resource Poor Module
- Small Business Counselling
- Women Entrepreneurship Training

Consultancy Services

- Micro and Medium Businessmen
- Small Business Counselor (SBC)
- Female Headed Householders
- Business Plan Preparation
- Project Proposal Preparation

Courses Conducted

- Certificate in Banking and Finance
- Advance Certificate in Banking and Finance
- Diploma in Banking and Finance

Training

- Follow-up Services after Training
- Monitoring and Evaluation

Programmes Conducted by CEFE – EUSL

The following workshops and Training program were conducted:

- Information Workshops
- New Business Creation (NBC) and Business Expansion Workshops (EDPs)
- Small Business Counseling
- Corporate plan
- Bankers skill Development program
- Marketing Management Program
- Financial Management Program
- Entrepreneurs Forum

9.3 Life Long Learning (L3) Farmers Project

Objectives

- Mobilize and enable the farmers to define their own needs.
- Link Farmers with all who are relevant to their needs, including educators, researchers, extension workers, financial services providers, and market professionals

Funding

Commonwealth of Learning, Canada.

Farmers programme helps rural communities find appropriate technology-based open and distance education to improve their livelihoods.

The programme is a response to a critical need: the wealth of information resulting from agricultural research and development often fails to travel the last mile to the villages of the developing world where it is most needed. While governments face challenges in funding adequate agricultural extension, globalisation is creating increasing competition for poor rural farmers.

Composition of Board

- Coordinator
- Bursar
- Team members

Activities carried out

- Workshop with farmers on digital content development
- Workshop with farmers on Dairy Farming
- Lesson material preparation
- Interactive CD preparation

9.4 University Industry Community Interaction Cell (UICIC)

Objective

Link the University with community or industry so that problem oriented / need based research would be carried out in the Universities. The outcome could be immediately applied to solve the problem.

Funding

University Grants Commission (UGC)

Activities carried out

- Visit of farmers from Kaluthavalai village to Weligatte tissue culture centre in Hambantota district
- Awareness programme on communicable and non-communicable diseases for advanced level students from the selected schools of Batticaloa district at St.Cecilia's Girls school National School, Batticaloa
- Seminar for Advanced level science stream students of Batticaloa district
- Residential training programme on sustainable farming for unemployed youth in Batticaloa district at Mid country Livestock Development Centre (MLDC), Kandy
- Awareness programme on "Soil and soil testing" for paddy farmers in Batticaloa district
- Awareness workshop on "Cultivation of Oyster Mushroom" for 30 educated youth from Batticaloa district
- Training programme on Agronomic practices for farmer beneficiaries of JICA

9.5 Centre for Aquatic Resources Management (CARM)

Fingerlings hatchery under the Centre for Aquatic Resources Management, Eastern University, Sri Lanka was launched with UNDP funding in October 2003. At present this centre is fully utilized for the practical and field demonstration for undergraduates and special graduates in zoology and also Students who are following one year Diploma in Aquatic Resource Management utilizes the centre for practical.

Vision

CARM is a centre for community oriented teaching and research and development programme in fisheries and aquatic resources management towards sustainability.

Mission

Provide the scientific basis to meet the challenges related to the fisheries and aquatic resources sustainability and play a major role to conserve and manage the living aquatic resources and their habitat in Eastern Sri Lanka.

Objectives

Overall Objective

The overall objective is to continuous supply of fresh water fish fingerlings in a view towards sustainable development of inland fishery sector in the Eastern Province and to support the community in respective of farming and management by technological transfer and training.

Specific Objectives

- More Research and Development in fish breeding and Growth
- Technology transfer to rural community
- Support to Diploma programme in Aquatic resource management to Students who passed A.L
- Technical Support to establishing new hatchery in the Province
- Field centre for newly establishing department call Natural Resource Management in the Faculty of Science

Board of Management

Board of Management includes Vice chancellor, Dean/ Science, Registrar, Bursar and a head of the department of study. In addition, building committee and financial committee are also functioned to monitor the progress of the hatchery.

Stakeholders

Students, Staff of Science, Fish farmers, Inland fisher community, NAQDA, UNDP, and Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

Activities Currently in Progress

- Practical and Demonstration centre for the field of Aquaculture and Breeding for Undergraduates and Diploma students
- Fish fingerlings Sale for local fish farmers
- Conducting training and awareness, technology transfer programme for inland fishing community.
- Student and Staff Research

9.6 Environmental Testing Unit (ETU)

Environmental Testing Unit was established at EUSL in 2007 with the financial assistance of Neherland Government under the NECCDEP funded programme in collaboration with Central Environmental Authority (CEA), with a view to providing services in analyzing water and soil quality samples as and when required by the stake holders.

Vision

Be a center of excellence in providing services in analyzing environmental hazards to water quality and soil in the region.

Mission

Be an accredited unit for testing of water and soil, and for research study related to them for the betterment of entire community.

Objectives

1. Test soil and water quality(fresh water, sea water, brackish, oil pollution in water and ground water, toxicity in drinking water, heavy metals in water, contamination in water, bacterial load in water) and produce their result with high standard.
2. Develop the research culture related to water and soil and produce the result as publication.
3. Generate income through testing and research from out side as well as through conducting training programme and short term courses, and ensure the sustainability of the unit.
4. Develop community interaction with researchers.

Structure

Function of the Unit is governed by a Board of management headed by Vice chancellor of EUSL and with an Overall coordinator appointed by the Board.

Expected activities

1. Analysis of Irrigation water near costal area of Kaluthawalai, Batticaloa
2. Workshop on water quality analysis for school children & teachers.
3. Analyzing water quality near waste water generating sources.
4. Classification of village level soil characteristics at Batticaloa District.
5. Special students research, Post graduate research, staff research and demonstration
6. Shrimp Farm soil and water testing
7. Other community Development.

9.7 Staff Development Centre (SDC)

Main objective

Train the various categories of staff such as Labourer, Clerk, Attendants, Technicians, Assistant Registrars, Senior Assistant Registrar, Registrar, Bursar, Book Keepers, Security branch staff dependent on their needs, Academic staff (Probationary, senior members, and academic administrative staff), into their working environment where they could gain experiences shared and improved along with enhancement of the knowledge.

The SDC has carried out several trainings to different category of staff spread over the year such as Teaching Methodology for the probationary staff where the curriculum is accredited by the UGC. This centre is managed by a Director

Activities

- SDC organized the following workshops for the academic staff:
- Quantifiable performance indicators for quality assessment.
- Performance indicators for higher education
- Conducting university examinations.
- Curriculum development.

SDC also arrange the following training programmes with outside institution:

- Induction programme for academic staff.
- Legal aspects of agricultural and bio technology.
- Wild life gardening.
- Laboratory management systems for laboratory technicians.

At present, only a small workshop space is available and a room for SDC Director. the facilities have to be improve to obtain efficient and effective functioning of the centre.

9.8 English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU)

Vision

Our vision is to be a leader in English language teaching renowned for excellence in (English) language skills development to achieve the desired goals of learners.

Mission

The ELTU is dedicated to enhance the language ability of the learners by creating conducive language learning environment and is committed to provide maximum exposure to the language concerning the national and global demands.

Objective

- To provide a sound practical knowledge to relevant areas of English; writing, speaking, reading, listening
- To develop competence in a wide range of activities in all the language skills
- To develop the ability of individuals to use the language in practical situation
- To enable individuals to carry out post graduate studies in the target language
- To enhance the competence in English of the undergraduates
- To develop academic skill needed to follow the study programmes in the target language
- To develop academic and professional skills in English needed for various academic disciplines
- To build up confidence of under privileged students who were deprived of language exposure
- To address the issues of language in the ICT era
- To expose students to real life situations in order to make them to use the language
- To provide professional qualification in language for people who are willing to take up language teaching as the career

Organized activities

Faculty of Arts & Culture	Talents Day English Day Day for Performance
Faculty of Commerce and Mgt	Presentation in pair/group – common & subject related topics English Day
SVIAS	English day Presentation in pair/group – common & subject related topics

Activities carried out by the unit

Faculties	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year
Arts & Culture	Basic English	General English Language - I	General English Language - II	-
Commerce & Management	Business Communication – Written Business Communication – Oral	Business Communication	English for Communication – until year 2002	English for Communication – until year 2002
Science	Proficiency in English – Level I	Proficiency in English – Level II	-	Career Development - English
Agriculture	English Level - I	English Level - I	-	Career Development - English
Health Care Sciences	English for Healthcare Science – Level I	English for Healthcare Science – Level II	-	-
SVIAS	English - I	English – II	-	-

Internal / Extension programme schedule

- Certificate course in General English Proficiency – GEP – programme
- Diploma in English for Teachers of English
- Basic Translation Skills – 10 day workshops
- Certificate course in English Language
- Skill enhancement in English

9.9 Career Guidance Unit (CGU)

The Career Guidance Unit was established in the Eastern University, Sri Lanka in 1999 to concentrate on facilitating employable graduates. This unit conducts awareness programmes for students such as, on employment opportunities in private sectors, public sectors, global job market and self employment etc.

Major objective

Motivating and helping the undergraduates to seek out opportunities for developing themselves the qualities and attributes and demanded by the today's world of work.

Staff strength

- Director (Part Time) - 01
- Computer Application Assistant - 01

Activities during 2005-2009

2005

- Psychological counseling programme was conducted by Dr. Ganeshan, Teaching Hospital, Batticaloa, on 12th of February, 2005
- Psychological counseling programme was conducted by Dr. John Van Eenwyk, Clinical Psychologist, Jungian analysis, Olympic Washington on the 22nd of February, 2005.
- One day orientation programme was conducted for the fresh students with lunch and refreshments with the financial assistance of the IRQUE/Social Harmony students counseling project.

2006

- Workshop on “Promotion of Business and Livelihood opportunities among University Graduates” in collaboration with Batticaloa District Chamber and Industry and with the financial help of USAID.

Target group: Final year students and Graduates who recently completed their Degree from the Eastern University, Sri Lanka and South Eastern University, Sri Lanka

- Reproductive Health Program – A group of final year students were participated conducted by Rev.sr.Josepha/Senior Lecturer / Nursing unit/EUSL
- Seminar on “Introduction to Career Guidance”
- Seminar on “Preparation of CV”
- Seminar on “How to make Good Presentation”
- “Importance of Improving Basic health care knowledge among University students” by Dr.Thananjan path (Community health development specialist, Marlin/Batticaloa and Dr. Sinniah Raviwarmmah (Senior Health Programme officer, Marlin/Batticaloa
- Workshop on “Promotion of Business and Livelihood opportunities among University Graduates”. An Entrepreneurship programme for final year students
- Seminar on “ Introduction to Administrative structure of the University in Sri Lanka”
- Seminar on “Successful Students”
- Seminar on “Facing an Interview”
- The following Seminars were conducted to the 1st year students at the SVIAS (English and Tamil Medium)
 - Time management
 - How to make presentation
 - Problem solving and decision making

2009

- Organizing & conducting meetings (03.01.2009) held in EUSL
- Personality Development (02.06.2009) held in EUSL
- Art of Living
- Leadership and Time Management (11.09.2009) held in SVIAS
- Introduction to Career Guidance

All units and centres regularly submit their progress report to the senate on quality basis.

10. SOME ACHIEVEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. The establishment of Faculty of Health Care Sciences in 2006 is a mile stone of the Eastern University, despite of many obstacles. The academic programme includes Telemedicine which deviates from the regular medical programme.
2. Recently established well equipped Center for Information and Communication Technology with full facilities is a significant development beneficial to the students as well as to the region.
3. Eastern University is conducting several postgraduate programmes in arts, commerce, management, science and agriculture to elevate the level of education in the region.
4. Several programmes are being conducted by our institution to uplift the knowledge and skill of the youths in the region in order to encourage self sustainable livelihood. Eg: English literacy, Computer literacy, external studies, specific technical short and diploma courses etc. are being included.
5. Substantial infrastructure development had occurred through World Bank funded IRQUE project under various programmes of which some are competitive and all these programmes were being completed within the time frame.
6. Evaluation committees of IRQUE quality assurance graded the activities of all the Departments of Eastern University as “GOOD” and “SATISFACTORY” indicating acceptable level of performance of Eastern University.
7. After the political situation in the Eastern Sri Lanka is stabilized and the situation in East is normalized, Students of all three ethnic groups are now back to the campus and live in harmony and continue their education conveniently. We can visualize social harmony does exist currently and all students here a happy go life in the campus although the facilities available to them are sub-normal to some extent. However, we expect that the facilities would improve with time.
8. Remarkable emphasis is being paid on the development of curriculum, course content and teaching methodology.
9. Installation of a new library management software called LibSys 4 which will provide access to library collection through OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) to client who are staff and students.
10. Students Welfare unit effectively deals with scholarships, bursaries and all matters related to general welfare of students to enhance learning support environment.
11. Students counseling service in Eastern University is available to help new students with transition into university system and also provide guidance through out the university life.
12. Academic advisory service has just begun to assist students in their academic programmes in terms of identifying the short comings, potential niches at individual level for the smooth running of the academic programmes.

In nut shell, the administration of Eastern University is attempting its level best to keep the learning environment for students in the campus conducive for their better education.

“We hopefully keep the flag of Eastern University, Sri Lanka flying”.

11. LIMITATIONS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Although well defined plan indicated in the cooperate planning had been developed, the implementation is being limited by various factors.

- The major limitation is the availability of funds from the government sources. Usually the allocations requested for development of Eastern University are drastically reduced and normally not available in time. Here the funds for infrastructure development and procurement of various materials for structural and academic development are not made available in adequate quantities within the time frame. The ministry of Higher Education and Treasury may consider to give priorities to overcome this problem.
- Interferences from inside and outside create interruption in implementation of the anticipated programmes in proper way within the stipulated term period.
- The staff strength is quite adequate. Nevertheless, there is inadequacy of qualified staff with postgraduate qualification to conduct effective academic programmes and to perform quality research. These are the two essential components for the development of Eastern University. It is necessary that the junior academic staff should be provided opportunities locally and/abroad for higher studies and short training in order to strength their knowledge and skill.
- Equal opportunities must be made available to the Eastern University in par with the other Universities and may be more as it is a young university in the stage of development.
- Facilities of the students' welfare appear to be not up to the required level. The learning environment living conditions (hostel facilities) are below normal and there are rooms for improvements which need to be attended immediately. (Could be witnessed at the time of visit of review committees).
- The existence of police post in the campus premises is causing psycho-fear and a potential hindrance for the free movement of staff and students. It is felt that as the situation is normal and political situation is stabilized police post in the campus is not essentially required. Consider to shift to a near place or completely remove it as there is a police station nearby in Eravur.
- The environment now prevails is conducive for all three ethnic groups(Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim) to stay and study in harmony and therefore equal opportunity may be provided for the students from all ethnic groups to enter and to peruse their undergraduate studies at the Eastern University. This is essential to create social harmony at the national level and leading to the development of Eastern University.
- Facilities of health services are apparently poor in terms of health service staff, medicine, furniture, health related equipment, etc and there is no suitable vehicle particularly an Ambulance is not available at all. Urgent action is necessary to overcome this said limitation.
- Although the Physical Education unit is available for the organization and administration of physical education, the available facilities need to be strengthened. Establishment of a gymnasium is an immediate need.

In nut shell, the above need factors are to be address for the sustainable improvement and stability of Eastern University in long term.