

Eurasia Proposal pertaining to Extension Ext.

EXTERNAL STUDENTS

The AUA Extension program serves as the University's interface with the community, including certain targeted sectors in government, academia, and the emerging private sector. It provides programs designed to enrich their understanding of important issues affecting them locally and internationally, and enhances their understanding of the new forces shaping their political, social, and economic realities. The University recognizes the special need to introduce courses in the fields of public administration, management and social sciences at this particular juncture in the region's development (AUA Catalogue).

The public sector of Armenia has a large number of middle level managers who will want to expand their horizons and improve their knowledge in public administration. In the Certificate program that was offered last year, some of the students took the course with the anticipation that it would give them an opportunity for career change, others wanted to increase their knowledge, and still others thought that it would give them a better preparation for advancement. All three motivations were legitimate, and courses in the University Extension program will give an opportunity to working members of the government to prepare themselves for contributions to the socioeconomic advancement of Armenia and the region.

A faculty in residence in Armenia teaching courses in the Public Administration option of the Political Science program will be available to offer short courses and seminars, and to organize symposia for the working element of the local and state governments who are unable to register as full time students. This opportunity to take advantage of the breadth and flexibility of the Public Administration program to structure an Extension program concurrently with the degree program will be very cost effective. We intend to emphasize, as we did last year, topics in Citizenship and Public Ethics, Public Policy Processes and Institutions, Public Organizations and Management, and a special course in Government and Business. The latter will also be open to the regular degree seeking students. Seminars, short courses and symposia are very effective methods of reaching the working public officials. Since University Extension was organized in 1992, more than 1500 persons have attended these public courses. Registration for such courses is required, and students respond to announcements on television, radio, and in newspapers, and register as external students.