

Governing Bodies and Institutional Activity

**A New Cycle – A New
Rectorate**

Governing Team

Governing Bodies

**Organisation
and Structure**

**The UOC within the
University System**

International Activity



A New Cycle - A New Rectorate

The Foundation for the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya was formally constituted on 6 October 1994. The aim was to create a distance university with an innovating teaching methodology and intensive use of ICT (information and communications technologies). Some people believed at the time that this was a visionary project, but Dr Gabriel Ferraté, the UOC's first Rector, had the sense of opportunity and launched the UOC at the right time: "Five years earlier, we couldn't even have imagined it – and five years later, it would have been too late", explains Ferraté.

In the academic year 1995-1996 two hundred students matriculated in the first two degrees with which the UOC was born. Ten academic years later, 98,000 students have already studied on its virtual classrooms. The UOC today makes available to citizens 19 recognised degrees, more than 200 postgraduate programmes, and has more than 3,000 graduates.

The UOC is based on a distance model and it was meant as an answer to a new way of understanding learning: "There is no need today to link learning to any specific moment in life, nor to any specific physical location. We must understand learning and training as a style of life, as a personalised way of being", former Rector Ferraté wrote.

Doctor Imma Tubella takes over from Ferraté at the helm of the UOC

On Friday 16 December 2005, Dr Imma Tubella succeeded Dr Gabriel Ferraté as Rector of the UOC during a public ceremony held at the Hall of the UOC's central building. The event was attended by the exiting Rector, as well as by Carles Solà, the then Catalan minister for Universities, Research and the Information Society. This was the first change at the helm of the UOC in its nearly eleven years of existence.

In her address, Rector Tubella pointed out that "the time had come to focus not just on an exponential growth, but rather on making this growth compatible with a quality in teaching. This means promoting research and a will to work within the University and Catalan society, hand in hand with its institutions and companies". The Rector added that the UOC is seeking to regain "the identity traits of the university, while striving to remain faithful to its foundational principles and its differentiated distance-teaching methodology based on the information and communication technologies, which have granted many people access to the University and made their studies compatible with their personal and professional life. We the governing team have decidedly sought to move from a great project to a great university, and want this quality leap to be reflected in Catalonia, in Spain and internationally".

Rector Tubella announced during her investment address that she would work to change the statutes of the FUOC in order to limit the period of her mandate as Rector, and that she would look for formulae to get the UOC's own team to participate in the changeover processes.



Gabriel Ferraté
Rector of the UOC (1994-2005)

"We want to make exponential growth compatible with a quality in teaching and the promotion of research"

Governing Team

**Improving
research and
student
care, and the
innovation
and adaptation
to Europe
are some of the objectives
of the Governing Council.**

The new Governing Council presents the challenges of the future

The highest collegiate governing body of the internal organisation of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya is the Governing Council, whose function it is to guide, plan and evaluate all university activity and to lay down the general lines of action of the University in all its spheres.

The Rector is the highest authority of the University and as such she holds the highest responsibility in the representation, the government and the administration of the University. She is assisted by the Vice Rectors and the Administrator, who take charge of the direction of the ordinary management of the University and the appointment of the Heads of Faculty and Area Directors.

The new Governing Council has presented the challenges they are prepared to face in order to transform the University:

1. To promote an organisational culture based on participation and co-responsibility.
2. To establish a policy of identity, growth and expansion of the University.
3. To establish a policy that clarifies the role and the academic career of teaching staff.
4. To give a new impulse to teaching innovation and to improve student care.
5. To implement the changes required by the adaptation to the new European Higher Education Area.
6. To promote research activity improving it qualitatively and quantitatively.
7. To establish a new technological model that takes advantage of the latest advances in the field of ICT.
8. To promote improvements in the area of management so that it gives a service progressively more adapted to the needs and challenges of the University.
9. To promote the University business group using criteria of efficacy, efficiency and economy.

Imma Tubella
Rector

Mavi Dolz
Vice Rector, Assistant to the Rector

Eduard Aibar
Vice Rector for Research

Ramon Alemany
**Vice Rector for Academic Organisation,
Teaching Staff and Innovation**

Manuel Castells
**President of the Scientific Committee
for Research and Doctoral Studies**

Llorenç Valverde
Vice Rector for Technology

Jordi Vilaseca
**Vice Rector for Strategic Development
and Secretary-General**

Òscar Aguer
Administrator

(Make-up of the Governing Council at 31 July 2006)



**The structure of the UOC
organises itself around
the Foundation for
the Universitat Oberta
de Catalunya.**

Governing Bodies

The Foundation for the UOC, backbone of the University

The Foundation for the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (FUOC) was born under the impulse of the Catalan Autonomous Government (Generalitat de Catalunya) on 6 October 1994 with a will to promote an offer for distance university education of its own. The main objective is to promote the creation and the acknowledgement of the UOC, which devotes a preferential attention to research in the sphere of the methodologies and techniques applied to distance university teaching.

The Foundation for the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya makes sure that the University follows on the right and effective direction and management, and accomplishes the necessary tasks of inspection, evaluation and control to guarantee the highest quality of the training process.

The Board of Trustees is the highest body in the representation and government of the Foundation, and is made up of entities with a wide implantation in all the territory and great social and political prestige. The Board of Trustees has a Standing Committee as its executive body, and the FUOC Council as a consultative body.

The main functions of the Board of Trustees in regard to the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya are to approve, and if need be to modify, the Norms for the organisation and functioning of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, to appoint or to remove the Rector and the Administrator, to approve the Budget and the accounts of the University, to approve the Strategic Plan presented by the Rector, and to evaluate its results.

The President of the Board of Trustees is the Minister responsible for University Affairs at the Catalan Government.

The Board of Trustees is the highest body of representation, government and administration of the FUOC.

Board of Trustees of the Foundation

Chairman

Joan Manuel del Pozo, Minister for Education and Universities, Generalitat de Catalunya

Vice Presidents

Francesc Vidal, Secretary-General, Department of Education and Universities, Generalitat de Catalunya

Arcadi Calzada, President, Caixa de Girona

Vocals

Francesc Cabré, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Reus

Jordi Valls, Minister for Employment and Industry, Generalitat de Catalunya

Joaquim Prats, Secretary, Department of Universities and Research

Josep Anton Ferré, Director-General of Universities, Department of Education and Universities

Marta Continente, Secretary for Telecommunications and the Information Society, Department of the Presidency

Raimon Carrasco, President, Fundació Enciclopèdia Catalana

Miquel Valls, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Barcelona

Pere Rifà, Director-General, Caixa Sabadell

Xavier Testar, Director-General of Research, Department of Education and Universities

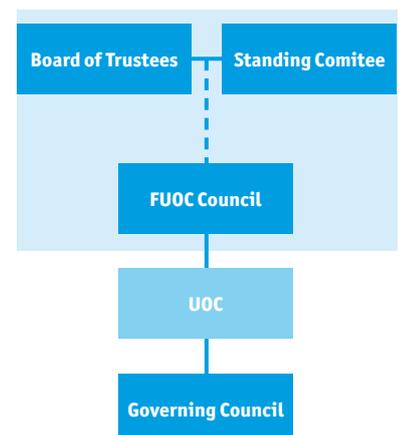
Joan Majó, Director-General of Corporació Catalana de Ràdio i Televisió (Catalan Broadcasting Corporation)

Javier Nadal, Director-General of Institutional and Foundational Relations of the Fundació Telefónica

Imma Tubella, Rector, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Òscar Aguer, Director, Foundation for the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Enrique Alcántara, Secretary, Foundation for the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya



The Standing Committee is the body for the administration and management of the Foundation.

Standing Committee and Advisory Council

The Standing Committee is the instance on which the Board of Trustees of the FUOC delegates some of its functions. The Committee is the permanent organ of administration and management of the Foundation and its mission is to manage the ordinary affairs of the Foundation.

Standing Committee

President

Josep Anton Ferré, Director-General of Universities of the Department of Education and Universities of the Generalitat de Catalunya

Vocals

Francesc Cabré, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Reus

Marta Continente, Secretary for Telecommunications and the Information Society, Department of the Presidency of the Generalitat de Catalunya

Joan Majó, Director-General of Corporació Catalana de Ràdio i Televisió (Catalan Broadcasting Corporation)

Pere Rifà, Director-General, Caixa Sabadell

Imma Tubella, Rector, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Òscar Aguer, Director, Foundation for the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Enrique Alcántara, Secretary, Foundation for the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

(Make-up of the Standing Committee at 31 July 2006)

The Advisory Council is the Foundation's consultative body and it guarantees a wide representation of Catalan society at the UOC.

The FUOC Council is the consultative body of the Foundation. In addition to the tasks of assessment and connection to society, the FUOC Council's task is that of informing of the budget, the programme, and the appointment of the Rector of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

It is made up of – in addition to the Rector of the UOC and the Director of the FUOC – representatives from the Catalan Parliament, from public universities, from employers' associations and the trade union organisations, and of various personalities from the fields of research and culture. It is therefore widely representative of Catalan society, to which the University, given its condition of public service, has the determination and the duty to serve.

Advisory Council

Appointed by the FUOC's Board of Trustees

Chairman
Josep Vilarasau, President, "la Caixa" Foundation

Vice Chairman
Vacant

Josep Maria Terricabras, Director of the Ferrater Mora Chair, University of Girona

Antoni Farrés, former President of Localret and former Mayor of Sabadell

Vicent Partal, Director, Vilaweb

Appointed by the Catalan Parliament
Francesc Esteva, CSIC

Antoni Garrell, President, Cercle per al Coneixement

Co-opted by the Consell Interuniversitari de Catalunya
Joan Viñas, Rector, University of Lleida

Màrius Rubiralta, Rector, University of Barcelona

Josep Joan Moreso, Rector, Pompeu Fabra University

Josep Ferrer, Rector, Polytechnic University of Catalonia (up till March)

Co-opted by the Employers' Associations
Josep A. Díaz, Vice President, Foment del Treball

Lluís Godayol, Representative from PIMEC

Co-opted by the Trade Union Organisations
César López, representative of CCOO

Eva Granados, representative of UGT

Imma Tubella, Rector, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Òscar Aguer, Director, Foundation for the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Enrique Alcántara, Secretary, Foundation for the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

(Make-up of the Advisory Council at 31 July 2006)

Organisation and Structure

The organisational structure becomes decentralised through the creation of executive Vice Rectorates

Throughout 2006, the UOC has changed from a model of centralised management, with an organic structure fully dependant on Administration, to a decentralised model of executive Vice Rectorates.

This has involved the modification of the responsibilities of the members of the Governing Council. The strategy and priorities of the new team of the Governing Council have given rise to a new definition of the Vice Rectorates. Each Vice Rector has now a Vice Administrator and the corresponding management teams that lend them support.

The figure of the Faculty Administrator is created

With the objective of providing a better service and support to the faculties, the figure of the Faculty Administrator has been created and programme management technical experts have been reinforced. In order to improve the efficiency of the management teams, the responsibilities and functions of the various areas have been reorganised: Marketing, Access and Registration, Planning and Organisation, Human Resources, Economy and Finances, and Management Control.

Finally, there has also been a re-organisation of the Rectorate team, through the offices of Communication, Institutional Relations and International Relations, each one headed by a Director and counting on a technical support team.

The new Governing Council renews the organisational structure attributing executive functions to the Vice Rectorates, re-organising the areas, and creating new figures, such as the Faculty Administrator.

The UOC within the University System

The UOC participates in Catalan, Spanish, European associations and institutions, and in those of other international spheres in order to make its model fit into the general university system, and to improve the quality of the teaching it offers.

The adaptation of the UOC into the Catalan university system is one of the top objectives of the new governing team.

Within the Catalan context, the UOC, a university with a distance teaching model, seeks to work and act within the university system looking for the complementariness and the necessary synergies to offer the best quality in university teaching to the citizen of Catalonia.

For this reason, the UOC has representatives in all the committees of the Institut Joan Lluís Vives, the network of all universities in the Catalan-speaking territories. The UOC forms also part of the ACUP, the Associació Catalana d'Universitats Públiques, and works alongside the Consell Interuniversitari de Catalunya and the guidelines of the Agència de Qualitat Universitària (AQU).

In the state scope, the UOC is present at the meetings of the CRUE (Consejo de Rectores de Universidades Españolas) and of the CCU (Consejo de Coordinación Universitaria).

As far as Europe is concerned, the UOC forms part of the following university networks: EADTU (European Association of Distance Teaching Universities), EDEN (European Distance and E-Learning Network), EUA (European University Association), KALEIDOSCOPE (Kaleidoscope Network of Excellence) and EFQUEL (European Foundation for Quality in eLearning).

In the international sphere, the UOC forms part of the following entities: CINDA (Centro Interuniversitario de Desarrollo), EDUCAUSE, EPUF (EuroMed Permanent University Forum), ICDE (International Council for Distance Education) and HACU (Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities).

International Activity

Collaboration agreement signed with The Oxford Internet Institute

The objective of the agreement with the Oxford Internet Institute is to facilitate joint work and the exchange of resources between the two institutions in projects linked to the use of the Internet and related to the communication and information technologies.

Among other potential meeting-points, we should single out within the academic sphere the exchange of doctoral students or the development of shared materials and seminars. As regards research, the possibility has been outlined of organising joint seminars, the possible holding of a workshop in Barcelona (2007) and another one in Oxford (2008). Similarly there are plans for the publication of research work at our publishing firms or publications, or the exchange of knowledge and technology in the sphere of our virtual libraries. Future projects will have their own working and funding mechanisms to be developed for each specific case.

An agreement was signed with

The Oxford Internet Institute

for the exchange of doctoral students, the development of shared materials and seminars, and the exchange of content and technology on their virtual libraries

Round-table on the content of open teaching

In May, the UOC's UNESCO Chair of E-learning organised the round-table Open Educational Resources (OER) and Open Content for Higher Education to debate about content in open teaching. Professor Susan D'Antoni, Director of the Virtual Institute of UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning based in Paris, took part in the act.



The UOC, pedagogical model for the UNDP Virtual School

The UOC collaborated in the definition of the pedagogical and management model of the UNDP Virtual School for Latin America and the Caribbean. This initiative was developed by the United Nations's Development Programme (UNDP), the European Commission and the Agència Catalana de Cooperació en el Desenvolupament, with the objective of setting up a community that specialises in the human development and democratic governance.