Dear friends of EuNC,

We hope and trust that you had a good start into 2012. At EuNC we certainly did! Important developments and events took place for our school:

**EuNC’s New Strategic Plan: Moving Beyond**

In January 2012, EuNC’s new strategic plan *Moving Beyond* was introduced to the faculty and the Board of Trustees. It succeeds the plan *Moving Forward* that had outlined the strategic priorities for the past years. Two factors were important in creating a new plan: Closing the residential programme in Büsingen and seeking European accreditation. Because moving to a fully decentralised school is a paradigm shift which requires new thinking about organisation and delivery, the new strategy is a transitional plan that intends to lay the foundation for a long-term view to be developed by January 2014. The name expresses the intention to move beyond a multi-location school with a campus as its centre to a fully decentralised school.

During the faculty assembly the first six outcomes were introduced and certain components further discussed in various groups. The biggest challenges will be developing a decentralised organisational structure, building the learning centres into small scale educational institutions, creating a learning community for part-time students and providing them with learning resources in their language.

The Board of Trustees devoted the entire afternoon of its meeting to the plan. The different outcomes were introduced and then discussed. The Executive Committee will follow developments closely this year and continue the dialogue with the Rector and the Academic Dean as representatives of the Leadership Team. Overall, there is great support in the Board for the direction in which EuNC is moving.

---

**The strategic plan outlines various objectives necessary to reach the following eight intended outcomes:**

1. The central administration is a virtual team. Its members live and work in different places and provide leadership, academic and administrative services to the learning centres.

2. The learning centres are small scale educational institutions within the overarching structure of EuNC, facilitated by the central administration of EuNC.

3. The learning centres are learning communities that provide holistic and transformational education.

4. EuNC serves local congregations of faith through vocational education to part-time students who are engaged in Christian ministry.

5. The courses of EuNC utilize educational technologies to offer non-traditional and hybrid courses, and learning resources in different languages to geographically spread students.

6. The academic programmes, the administration and services to the students reflect EuNC’s commitment to excellence.

7. EuNC uses its financial resources to establish equality among the learning centres and students of different economies.

8. EuNC promotes its mission, ensures its legal status and the stewardship of its facilities.
Faculty Assembly 2012
A total of 60 persons are regularly involved in the organisation of EuNC. These persons provide leadership, teach, assist teachers or fulfil administrative responsibilities. Every year these persons gather for the faculty assembly. This year 43 faculty members and administrators came to Büsingen for three days of training, dialogue and fellowship. They represented 12 of our 14 active learning centres.

The major business item of this year’s assembly was the new strategic plan of EuNC *Moving Beyond*. One of the major challenges is finding ways to transfer the spirit of community, which characterised the campus programme in Büsingen, to the different learning centres.

EuNC is convinced that formation takes place in community and is fully aware of the danger of its decentralised model to reduce education to just offering courses. Therefore, EuNC is intentional in creating in each learning centre an environment in which students can develop holistically and where academic studies can be supported as part of that development.

One of the ways to reach this objective is to recruit tutors and mentors to assist the teachers and administrators in creating community in each learning centre. Tutors will be working alongside teachers in helping students with their coursework when the teacher is not available to the students because of distance or language. Much time was devoted to training the tutors. Mentors will support students individually and encourage them during the entire period of their studies.

Other important agenda items were the review of syllabus templates, and specific training for new administrators. As always the faculty assembly is also a time of celebration. Being together and feeling united for the cause of ministerial preparation, sharing meals, singing and praying is a wonderful encouragement. We all look forward to our next gathering!
Accreditation Visit at European Nazarene College

EuNC is in the process of gaining European accreditation from the European Evangelical Accrediting Association (EEAA). Such accreditation means an official recognition of the education EuNC provides in the different learning centres as equivalent to the European standards of vocational education at the Bachelor’s level.

In October 2010 EuNC requested accreditation for its two certificate programmes, and after a team visit to the campus in Büsingen candidacy status was granted in April 2011. The next step was the writing of a lengthy self evaluation report that was submitted in December 2011. In January 2012, the EEAA sent a second visitation team to the faculty assembly to interview the different teachers, administrators and tutors who work in the central administration or the learning centres.

The interim report we received from the visitation team was very encouraging. The team “was deeply impressed by the quality of the work being done … the skill employed and the quality shown in the way curriculum … has been put together” (quote from the EEAA Interim Report of 27th January 2012). The visitation team has formulated six requirements EuNC needs to fulfil by September 2012, and has also scheduled three visits to different learning centres. When EuNC fulfils these requirements and the reports of the visits to the learning centres are positive, the visitation team will then recommend to EEAA council to accredit the two certificate programmes EuNC offers in all its learning centres.

If all goes well, we can expect to receive official accreditation in November 2012. This will be a major accomplishment for EuNC in its transition to a fully decentralised model of education. It means not only having official accreditation for our learning centres, but also having European accreditation.

MidAmerica Nazarene University at Büsingen Campus

European Nazarene College and MidAmerica Nazarene University have signed an agreement for MNU to use the Büsingen Campus (now called European Conference Centre) for their new MNU Europe programme, a semester abroad experience for MNU students, to begin in the autumn. “We are very happy about the developments of our former campus,” said Rector Klaus Arnold. “The facilities will continue to be used for educational purposes for the International Church of the Nazarene.”

MNU is the first entity outside the Eurasia Region to rent the facilities of EuNC. “MNU was offered the use of the campus for our MNU Europe programme, and we plan to be there for many years to come,” said Lorie Beckum, director of global studies and MNU Europe at MidAmerica Nazarene University.
MNU and EuNC have always had a strong bond of international friendship. In 1977 EuNC affiliated itself with MNU. Through MNU the college had the opportunity to offer a fully accredited Bachelor of Arts in Religion degree. Since then, the students of the exchange programme have built stronger bonds with their European counterparts.

Did you know that...

- A new teaching location was opened in Atyrau, Kazakhstan. Last month the first course, *Introduction to College Studies*, was offered to eight new students.
- Our learning centre in Italy will start its first course in the coming weeks. So far eight students have enrolled.
- We had to reschedule a course due to heavy snow fall in Bulgaria. Klaus Arnold was advised to stay home as students were not able to travel to the classes.

Thank you for staying in touch and for all your support. Please, continue to pray for European Nazarene College during this transitional period of building a decentralised school of Christian ministry.

In Christ,

Klaus Arnold, Rector