

Prof. Alvydas Pumputis  
Rector  
Mykolas Romeris University  
20 Ateities Street  
LT-08303 VILNIUS  
Lithuania

Paris, 21 March, 2011

Dear Rector Pumputis,

First of all, please accept my most sincere apologies for not being able to attend the meeting on March 23, 2011 when Mykolas Romeris University will be reporting on its 2010 achievements to the Minister and Members of the Education, Science and Culture Committee of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania. As you know, my responsibilities at the International Association of Universities are quite heavy and I will be speaking at an international conference in Canada on this date.

I have enjoyed serving on the University Council during the past year, whether I was able to join the Council in person or by Skype. The University has made tremendous efforts to modernize and to make the most of its new status. It has been a privilege for me to be able to contribute to the deliberations of the Council and the university leadership.

Having read the report which summarized the work accomplished, allow me to express my congratulations to you and your rectorate for so amply demonstrating the University's commitment to being a modern and internationally oriented university. This commitment was highly visible when MRU hosted the International Conference of the IAU. The theme which we chose together with the University and the organization and content of the debates were extremely well-received by those who attended. Furthermore, all participants left Vilnius and Lithuania with a solid appreciation of a university and a country many of them did not know previously.

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The commitment of the university to modernize and open new opportunities for students and faculty permeates all efforts that were undertaken in 2010. It is clear that you and the University leadership is committed to learn from the best practices in Europe and beyond and to offer students the same opportunities. This commitment is not only evident in policy terms but is accompanied by concrete actions and financial investments – for example in salary terms for faculty members.

The structural changes that have been introduced at MRU, have been undertaken during quite difficult times not only in Lithuania but also around the world where universities are seeing budget reductions and have to make difficult choices. MRU success to launch and secure joint programs and collaborations with overseas universities is thus particularly remarkable.

I have appreciated the dynamic and energetic way in which the university is moving forward and hope that public investment and support will match the ambitions that you and your colleagues have for Mykolas Romeris University. Much work remains to be done and I sincerely hope that the Council, the Senate and the whole academic community at MRU will continue to work towards the goals you have set for the institution.

Please express my regrets to the Chair of the Council and my fellow Council members for not being able to attend this important meeting.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. Egron-Polak', written in a cursive style.

Eva Egron-Polak  
Secretary-General, International Association of Universities