

## **SLS Strategic Plan 2009-2013**

### **Mission:**

With the larger objective of 'Humanity' at heart, School of Liberal Studies, PDPU will aim at following objectives:-

1. To encourage creative thinking and ability to see things as a whole. Critical moments in life require an ability to think out of the box, to perceive a situation in toto and imaginatively find out solutions. Life is not divided into 'majors'!
2. To inculcate moral values and social awareness in young students who would hold the future of the world. Wisdom is more important than mere acquisition of information. More than any times, the world needs responsible and tolerant human beings today. If the humanity is to survive, fountain of wisdom has to spring from somewhere. We aim to perform this noble task.
3. To create a happier human being. A creative mind is always happier. With emphasis on creativity and imaginativeness we intend to persuade students that 'Truth is beauty, and beauty is truth'.
4. To serve as a catalyst for the desire of innovativeness in order to form disciplined yet creative habits of mind.
5. To prepare graduates, who would not be limited for a job hunt only in specific domains. With their 'rounded' personality they would contribute in diverse organizations and fields, especially in Politics and Culture.
6. To encourage experience of pleasure while doing a research in a field for which one has a passion and to transfer this sense of freedom from the 'School to the Society'.
7. To provide an ability to understand, analyze and interpret different written material.
8. To bridge literature, History, Music, Science and Technology with contemporary requirements.
9. To enable students to understand the diversity in global / national cultures and the spirit of co-existence so that the world becomes a true 'melting pot'.

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10. To maintain a smaller student population with the goal of achieving a lower student-to-teacher ratio and creating a more intimate sense of community.
11. To design and provide wide variety of courses which provide students with a broader base of knowledge to draw from.
12. To create non-judgmental environment where each student is valued for individual talent and aptitude.
13. To foster scholarly teaching-learning culture based on reflective and creative independence.
14. To participate with industry, government, other academic institutes and NGOs for creating new opportunities for internship programs.
15. To provide financial assistance, scholarship or financial opportunity to deserving students so that they learn while they earn.
16. To provide a comprehensive mix of academic programs and research projects to strengthen inter-disciplinary understanding.
17. To develop an adult 'electorate' who is able to think, reason and decide independently and without whom democracy would fall apart.

**Academic Philosophy:**

The School of Liberal Studies would focus on developing fully rounded human beings who are governed by the spirit of academic inquisitiveness and perseverance to better the nation in particular and the world in general. We intend to provide education that is:-

- ✓ Collaborative, Interactive and Interdisciplinary.
- ✓ Extensively designed to provide rich breadth of courses.
- ✓ Research oriented.
- ✓ Designed to challenge the creativity and imagination of students.
- ✓ Designed to cultivate atmosphere of tolerance, multi-cultural understanding and appreciation for the beauty of Studies and culture.

The school will provide breadth of Liberal Studies and depth of specialized areas. While designing courses in breadth, care is taken to provide maximum opportunities to student to pursue courses that acquaint her/him to all that is best in the tradition as well as emerging global trends and requirements. The curriculum is a mix of sociology, literature, psychology, administration, economics, mathematics, politics, art, music, sports, theatre, environmental science, governance, computers, gender studies and other wide variety of courses.

Since, the very philosophy of Liberal Studies emphasizes on promoting skills, the school will facilitate in discovering, exploring and developing following skills:-

- Intra-Personal and Inter-Personal Communication
- Analyzing and Interpreting challenging situations
- Working in a team
- Leadership qualities
- Emotional quotient
- Creative writing
- Music composition & Theatrical skills
- Designing through traditional and technical means
- Computing
- Workplace skills

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Along with above mentioned skills, the school also realizes the larger goal of developing responsible citizens. The school will impart following values through real time experiences:

- Multi-cultural / Multi-Religious tolerance
- Respect for the tradition and beautiful products of art
- Political awareness
- Respect for all constituents of the society
- Zeal for independent learning
- Environment protection
- Community spirit

Strong faculty-students relation will ensure lot of interaction inside and outside classrooms. Faculty and students will work in partnership on projects, research, community service and cultural activities. Residential nature of the institute will ensure close-knit team.

The school will promote an academic environment that is designed in view of the changing global and industry requirements. With constant interaction with various constituents of the society and industry, students would know about their requirements and progressively will apply themselves to complement the requirements.

The assessment of students is an integral part of any academic institute. The school will promote an atmosphere where faculty would actively mentor and motivate students after diligently assessing their continuous learning projects. The assessment would be a mix of traditional and non-traditional methods. Group-Discussions, Creative Projects, Seminars, Poster Presentations, Skits, Group Projects and many other activities will help the school in identifying the hidden talents of each student. The assessment would be 'non-judgmental' and would value each student as unique individuals.

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The school realizes that classroom sessions will foster collaborative learning but would not be sufficient for independent thinking, introspection and reflection. The school curriculum and the timetable will ensure that students spend sufficient time in classrooms and on project work outside the classroom. Learning through self-study projects, excursions, visits, group-activities, student-exchange programs etc. would define an innovative approach to Liberal Studies Education.

Faculty at the school will willingly submit themselves to feedback so that academic delivery can be made better all the time. They would apply themselves to constant academic pursuit and research. They would mentor students actively and would promote them. They would 'lead by examples'.

The overall philosophy of the school would be – 'Teaching is love made visible'.

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### **Goals of the strategic plan:**

To see that the Objectives and the Academic Philosophy of the School is implemented into practice, Strategic plan 2009-13 is designed. The strategic plan would broadly look at following points:

- Teaching-Learning Experience at the Undergraduate Level.
- Managing cultural identity with the openness to global changes.
- Support for research driven activities.
- Contribution to community and the nation building.

### **Goal 1- Teaching-Learning Experience at the Undergraduate Level**

- To provide breadth and depth of learning experience for relevant subjects.
- To design and implement innovative curriculum that adheres to UGC and the global requirements.
- To design and implement innovative methods of teaching and interaction.
- To include a pool of highly talented and sensitive faculty.
- To arrange for orientation and training program for faculty in areas of innovative practices of teaching.
- To find out unconventional methods of teaching learning that make academic sessions interesting and at the same time meaningful.
- To balance the number of students and teachers. Preferably smaller classes.
- To acquire and use infrastructure for ICT enabled classroom teaching.
- To teach life-skills along with subject knowledge.
- To balance classroom hours with practical exposure to the subjects with the help of laboratory sessions, creative sessions, visits, tours, students' exchange etc.
- To design and implement academic schedule to ensure smooth functioning of the academic work.
- To design and implement Activities Calendar to ensure students' exposure to sports and cultural activities.

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- To design and implement examination schedule in consultation with the Exams department and the office of the Registrar.
- To provide access to large number of subjects for Majors and Minors.
- To ensure smooth and transparent procedures for admissions.
- To provide excellent administrative support to the school.
- To provide excellent ICT support for academic and administrative work.
- To establish good library and reading room with large number of study books, leisure reading, research journals, newspapers, magazines, audio-video resources.
- To form and work through different academic committees.
- To involve students in committees to create sense of 'ownership'.
- To ensure study material in the form of archives on the intranet.
- To show willingness to feedbacks from all levels.
- To design and implement scholarships for the deserving students.
- To design academic and infrastructural facilities for the physically challenged students.
- To interweave adequate practical and theoretical curricula of sports.

**Goal – 2 Managing cultural identity with the openness to global changes**

- To design and implement curriculum that promotes Indian culture.
- To understand and adhere to constantly changing global requirements.
- To contact industry, know its requirements and involve industry in curriculum designing.
- To bring in students and faculty from all parts of India together and develop a ‘melting pot’.
- To maintain multicultural understanding with the help of ‘Greek Community’.
- To undertake research projects related to cultural identity and multiculturalism.
- To bring in students of other institutes from the university in contact with SLS students to encourage multilingual, multicultural setting.
- To ensure safety and intellectual freedom of all stakeholders irrespective of class, colour and creed.
- To encourage students from abroad to be the member of SLA and to ensure for their smooth induction.
- To facilitate multicultural set up through students counseling.
- To establish affiliation / tie ups with reputed national and international organizations of art and culture.

**Goal – 3 Support for research driven activities.**

- To make research activities essential component of academics.
- To encourage both the faculty and students for research activities.
- To facilitate research activities through travel assistance and other financial assistance.
- To encourage joint research projects of students-faculty.
- To plan for postgraduate research programs like MLS and M.Phil.
- To ensure smooth functioning of Ph.D. program in the area of Humanities, Studies and Social Sciences.
- To generate and allocate sufficient revenue for research activities.
- To arrange for meaningful national and international seminars, conferences, symposiums and workshops.

**Goal – 4 Contribution to community and the nation building**

- To design and implement a year long community development program.
- To encourage faculty and students for participation in community work.
- To inculcate the spirit of nation building and responsibility in young minds.
- To voluntarily submit services in times of national, international crises or natural calamities.
- To ensure that all stakeholders of the society benefit through the community work.
- To play the part of a bridge between industry and society.
- To create awareness in the society about the community work.