

Postgrados Express

Esta semana fuimos sorprendidos por las noticias en todos los medios de prensa acerca del negocio de las universidades privadas que ofrecen doctorados a extranjeros, quienes con la asistencia de 2 fines de semana en el año ya tienen habilitada toda la carga horaria de 1 año, y en 4 visitas al país llevan su doctorado. Coreanos brasileños son los principales clientes. Un doctorado en Asunción de 2 años cuesta aproximadamente 11.320 reales en su país, acceder a estos doctorados exige un proceso de selección y el costo es 2 a 3 veces más. La carga horaria que aparece en Internet es de 2100 horas, en aula, que es imposible que se cumpla. La Universidad Nacional de Asunción en su reglamentación de Post-Grado exige 1200 horas presenciales para los doctorados de Postgrado.

El negocio de las universidades privadas surgió ante la desidia de la Universidad Nacional de Asunción que no impulsa o no hace lobby como debería para que la ley de la Educación Superior sea aprobada y se termine con la práctica nefasta del poder legislativo donde aprueban la creación de Universidades por ley, sin antes haber sido aprobado por un consejo de

universidades donde los representantes de cada facultad den su parecer sea, favorable o negativo según las necesidades de la población a quien va dirigida.

El Postgrado puede ofrecer a la Universidad Nacional de Asunción una fuente de ingresos propios aceptable pero la burocracia y la lentitud de nuestras Facultades para publicar le dieron los elementos a las privadas para lucrar con la formación terciaria de paraguayos, ahora de extranjeros. Que el Postgrado puede ser una fuente interesantes de ingresos para el país de ofrecer a extranjeros es cierto, como se defendió un catedrático que dicta cursos de Postgrados llamados "EXPRESS" por la prensa, pero mentir y dar pseudotítulos ponen nuevamente a Paraguay en la franja de países del MERCOSUR como un país donde todo es fraude, corrupción, ilegalidad, contrabando, venta de títulos falsos y ahora "Postgrados Express". El Sr. Rector de la Universidad Nacional de Asunción reacciona diciendo que urge la ley de la Educación Superior. Esperemos que este año político no impida concretar la promulgación de la ley de la Reforma en la Educación Terciaria.

Prof. Dra. Carmen Sckell de Duarte

Express Graduate Programs

Last week we were surprised with the news in all local newspapers about the business of some private universities that offer doctorate degrees to foreigners who only need to attend these classes two weekends in a year in order to fulfill the requirement of one year of attendance and in four visits to our country they obtained their doctorate degree.

Koreans and Brazilians are the main customers of these "express graduate programs". A two year program like this in Asuncion cost 11.320 RS (US\$ 6,000) and for Brazilians to have access to these doctorates they need to go through a selection process and also the cost is twice or three times more expensive. The amount of hours that they show in their websites is of 2,100 hours in the classrooms which are impossible to accomplish during those two visits to the country. The National University of Asuncion (UNA) in its Graduate regulation demands 1,200 class hours in order to obtain a doctorate degree.

This private universities business started due to the apathy of the National University of Asuncion who doesn't motivates or does lobby like it should do in order to get the approval for the Law of Higher Education to finish the unlucky practice of the Legislative Power where they grant the creation of new universities by law before being approved by a University Council where the representatives of each School give their opinion, even if its positive or negative ac-

ording to the needs of the country's population to which is targeted and with an academic approach not only from business point of view.

The graduate programs can favor the National University of Asuncion as a source of own and important income but the bureaucracy and the slowness of our National University gave the privates universities the arguments to start profiting with the tertiary education of the Paraguayan people and now from foreigners. The statement that these graduate programs can become an important source of income for the country offering these courses to the foreigners is true, like an Academic who dictates one of the courses in them stated to defend himself in front of the press but it is also true that lying and giving fake degrees, put the country in the position of a fraudulent country before the other MERCOSUR members. Also shows the country as having corruption, not respect for the laws, contraband, sale of fake titles and now offering "Express Graduates Programs".

The Rector of the National University of Asuncion reacts to this situation saying that is urgent to pass a law for the Higher Education, a project that is sleeping in the Congress.

We hope that this political year does not impede the concretion of the promulgation of the law of the Reform of Tertiary Education and that some control organs are established within the public and private universities.

Prof. Dra. Carmen Sckell de Duarte