

SUMMARY

Summary of Report 20/2019, relating to the Autonomous University of Barcelona, subsidiary or partly owned entities, year 2017

Barcelona, 22 January 2020

The Public Audit Office for Catalonia has issued report 20/2019, relating to the subsidiary or partly owned entities of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) in year 2017, in accordance with its Annual Programme of Activities.

The report, which was presented by Board Member Mr Jordi Pons i Novell, was approved by the Audit Office Board at its meeting on 17 December 2019.

The work carried out for this audit of limited scope included a review of the relationships involving assets and staff and the transactions carried out between the UAB and the entities in which it had a stakeholding.

Starting with a list provided by the UAB of entities in which it had an equity stake (see annex 4.1 in the report) a sample of thirty-one entities was selected, which included those where the UAB had a majority stakeholding and others selected at the auditor's discretion bearing in mind the extent of their affiliation with the UAB, their location on or off the campus, and the extent of their affiliation with other entities not related to the UAB (see table 2 in the report).

The Conclusions section of the report presents the most significant findings and recommendations arising from the audit carried out, of which the following can be highlighted:

- The Audit Office did not obtain all the information necessary to verify aspects relating to UAB staff seconded to its subsidiary or partly owned entities; this represented a limitation to the audit scope.
- The UAB did not send the Public Audit Office the annual accounts correctly approved by the relevant officials along with the auditors' reports for all of the enterprises and entities in which it had an equity holding, thereby failing to comply with article 81 of the Consolidated Catalan Public Finance Act.
- The UAB's Social Council ought to analyse the activity of these subsidiary or partly owned entities, their relationships with the UAB and with the Autonomous University of Barcelona Foundation (FUAB) and the situation of the ones with cumulative losses and negative results and take the necessary action to avoid negative effects on the financial position of the University. Furthermore, the UAB should exercise a level of control over the entities where it has a majority stakeholding equivalent to that maintained over its own services.

- The UAB should review the agreements for loaning or assigning assets so as to clearly specify the estimated worth of the assets transferred or, if that is the case, of the right to use them; to include, where necessary, the estimated value of its share of general maintenance expenditures as part of its contribution to the other entity, and record them as grants in kind; to ensure that the entities it holds stakes in record all assets transferred to or from them on loan in accordance with applicable accounting regulations; and to make quite clear who is responsible for purchasing the insurance cover for structures, contents and liability (including liability deriving from each entity's activities).
- The UAB should review the management agreements with its subsidiary or partly owned entities and the services invoiced by the FUAB to other entities within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between the FUAB and the UAB of 28 April 2006, and encourage the FUAB and the entities receiving its services to draw up and sign the appropriate contracts.
- Adequate procedures need to be put in place to monitor the courses which are carried out through other entities and to calculate and invoice, at their conclusion, the university quotas, fees and certificates corresponding to the UAB.

This summary is solely for information purposes. The audit report (in Catalan and Spanish) can be consulted at www.sindicatura.cat.