



Dear member of the university community,

I am pleased to present our proposals and electoral programme, which is aimed at tackling the new challenges that the University of Oviedo needs to address over the next four years. My ambition to achieve all this is as strong as ever, but I now offer greater experience after all we have been through. When we put ourselves forward back in 2016, little could we have imagined that we would end up facing this unprecedented situation at the end of our first term of office.

Thanks to the effort and collaboration of the entire university community, we are now coming through this pandemic. And, after all this, I have no doubt we will come out stronger and in a better situation. The pandemic has reinforced the importance of putting the health and wellbeing of the university community first, and the need to create safe working environments, implement teleworking, and use the benefits of face-to-face teaching opportunities - which ultimately is the essence of university life.

We have fulfilled the commitments on which we were elected to an extent that is unprecedented in our recent history. The university has continued to grow since 2016. In terms of budget, we have grown by more than 22 million euros and have moved ahead in all national and international rankings. We have improved both the administration/services and teaching/research teams, reducing 320-hour employment insecurity and unfairness as well as quality, knowledge transfer, transparency, equality, inclusion, ethics and equity. We have improved our IT infrastructure and the sustainability of our buildings, and are pleased to confirm that all our resources are fully operational. We have met all stages of our decentralisation plan for Masters and PhD programmes and continue to allocate more resources to the budgets of centres, departments and institutes. We have done all this within an atmosphere of respect, harmony and ongoing negotiation during our first term of office.

We have also improved the way the university interacts at all levels with the government of the Principality of Asturias and Asturian society as well as city and town councils - all part of reinventing the way in which the University Extension works. Significant advances in terms of international development can be seen across all areas - and especially in the Erasmus+ programme, where we are leading the growth of Spanish universities, having tripled the level of resources we obtained in 2016. One by one, we have met all our commitments to students: the student board, regulations on academic standstill, the lowering of fees, the unprecedented improvement of conditions in regard to making progress and continuing. Every year, our calls for applications have enabled us to meet all applications for grants for lack of economic resources - which have been so necessary during this pandemic.

We are now asking you to give us the opportunity to continue to progress the initiatives contained in our electoral programme as well as those in our proposals for each community and group, which impact every one of us. Our challenges are more ambitious and our drive remains intact. We are revitalised by our recent experience and by the work that we do day in, day out to improve the university.

New Challenges keeping the momentum.

So that we can continue with all that drive and vision, I ask for your vote.

With very best wishes
Santiago

