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Former President (2009-16), Sabancı Univ.

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President, Sabancı University (2009-2016): Started SUNUM Sabancı University Nanotechnology Research and Application Center, IICEC Istanbul International Climate and Energy Center, SU Integrated Manufacturing Technologies Center, SU-Mercator Foundation Turkish-German high school/university student youth bridge, MIT-SU strategic collaborations. Outside funding of projects increased importantly every year starting the beginning of presidency. Journal publications by faculty members were motivated and increased considerably. Student academic success and therefore grades have improved importantly. Started truly interfaculty undergraduate courses. Brought departmental specialization to the end of the first undergraduate year, cutting down the previous two-year waiting period. Started faculty advisors from the first day of undergraduate education. Started 55 different double-degree programs. For example in 2015 with 1308 active personal research projects conducted by undergraduate students, created a student research-oriented and generally student-focussed environment. Introduced undergraduate research advising to faculty evaluations. On most days throughout the year, as President had his lunch with students at randomly chosen dining hall tables. Started free, widely attended, open-access courses for the general public of all ages. Started SU Karaköy Science and Culture Academy for adults with strong scholarship support (and participation) for high school teachers. Started SU Conference Series Books (with books by Prof. Tosun Terzioğlu, Cem Mansur "Music, Mankind, and Peace", Kemal Derviş). Started the Dicle Koğacıoğlu Writing Award. Gave dozens of motivation/guidance seminars at high schools all over Turkey. Extending the University Summer Courses for High School Students that he had previously (2008-) brought to Turkey at the TÜBITAK Feza Gürsey Research Center, together with Vice-President Prof. Sondan Durukanoğlu Feyiz conceived and conducted the SU Summer School for High School Students, with each summer 1000 high school students taking over 40 university courses, and a very large net income to be given to the SU undergraduate scholarship fund. Restructured continuous daily open houses for high school students and their parents during university choosing period, other high school outreach programs, and undergraduate scholarship offering distributions. Thus dramatically improved undergraduate student entrance profiles in every faculty. Restructured, thus considerably enhancing academic engagement, the Sakip Sabanci Research Award. Together with Neyvir Berktay and Dilek Sabanci, produced in two languages the study "Towards a Barrier-Free Turkey: Where Do We Stand? The Status Quo and Proposals" (309 pages). Together with Prof. Özgür Demirtaş and Suzan Sabancı, founded the SU Center of Excellence in Finance. Together with Prof. Sadık Esener and Sevil Sabancı, constructed the blueprint for the Sabancı University Faculty of Law. Started book distribution club and yearly reading workshops including authors with strong joint participation from administrative personnel, students, faculty, and alumni. Started free "currently playing movie" evenings for students-faculty-staff-alumni. Started SU Alumni Association international cultural trips, with the participation and guidance of history professors. Designed and first implemented SU Emeritus Professorship, including (wooden) Emeritus Armchair. The Entrepreneurship and Innovation University Index given by the Ministry of Science, Industry, and Technology increased, in first and seldom second place, and during the last year of his Presidency, peaked at 95/10. Brought Sabanci University generally to first-place rankings in Turkey, top rankings internationally. etc.

During his Presidency, taught at least one course every semestre and published 15 papers in The Physical Review. Click here for Presidency photos.

Click here for Graduation Day speeches: 2014, 2015, 2016

