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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Full Implementation of the Six-Pillar Student-Centered Model at the  
Aristotle University – Presentation by the Rectorate Authorities**

Thessaloniki, April 7, 2026

The administration of the Aristotle University presented its policies and initiatives for student welfare during a press conference held today, Holy Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at the First Student Residence Hall.

In his opening remarks, the Rector of the Aristotle University, Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis, emphasized that the University is transitioning from a study-focused institution to one centered on the overall student experience, with a clearly student-oriented approach. He noted that “the Aristotle University was founded a century ago with a great mission: to serve as an institution of knowledge, progress, and social mobility for the country. Today, as it enters its second century, our responsibility is to continue this mission under modern terms: with a University that is more open, more human, and closer to its students, operating in a way that responds to the needs of the new generation. A University that approaches the student experience holistically, recognizing that its quality is also measured by how it cares for its students. When a University cares for its students, it essentially invests in the future of society.”

The Rector went on to state that the current administration approaches the student experience holistically—not merely as an issue of housing and food—and outlined six key pillars guiding student welfare policies.

**First Pillar – Modern Studies and an International University:** The University introduces new, contemporary academic fields and joint degree programs between departments, strengthening the connection between studies and the needs of society and the economy. It also expands its program of named academic chairs and launches ten new foreign-language programs—more than all other universities combined.

Second Pillar – Digital Transformation of the Student Experience: The University implements new digital platforms, introduces an innovative mobile application for students (Aristomate), and conducts digital examinations using tablets.

Third Pillar – Housing, Dining, and Daily Student Support with an Emphasis on Safety: The University substantially upgrades student welfare infrastructure—including residence halls and the university dining facilities—ensuring modern living and operating conditions for students.

Fourth Pillar – Holistic Approach to Student Welfare: The University promotes inclusion, placing special emphasis on supporting students with increased or specific needs—ensuring that no student faces difficulties alone. It also adopts the European Student Card and upgrades the overall campus environment.

Fifth Pillar – Student Participation in Research:

The University actively involves students in research from the early years of study, strengthens internship programs, and rewards student research performance annually through multiple awards.

Sixth Pillar – Student Experience as Personality Development:

The University positions itself not only as a place of knowledge but also as a space for character development. It continuously rewards students for academic excellence combined with social contribution, volunteering, participation in cultural activities, and sports.

In conclusion, the Rector stressed that a public university is not merely an educational institution but a meaningful promise of social mobility. He underlined that student welfare is not a secondary administrative function but a prerequisite for equal opportunities, ensuring that every student can fully devote themselves to knowledge and research without obstacles.

Closing his remarks, Mr. Anastasiadis emphasized that the administration’s goal is not simply management but the creation of structures that substantially enhance the student experience. He stated that the University must listen to students’ voices, referring to the “Student Barometer” as a tool for recording their needs and adapting administrative policies accordingly.

At the press conference, also spoke the Vice-Rectors of Research and Innovation Professor Ioannis Rekanos, of Academic Affairs and Development Professor Nikolaos Maggioros, and of International Relations, Outreach, Lifelong Learning, and Student Welfare Professor Iakovos Michailidis. They presented in detail the administration’s actions and plans, highlighting student welfare as a holistic approach to the student experience.

**Available videos:**

Aristomate: <https://youtu.be/ZCZwwFzfVEo>

Student Residences: <https://youtu.be/VtaYTUaxmBg>

Welcome to AUTH: <https://youtu.be/5-4y23a6pA>

Presentation by Vice-Rector of International Relations, Outreach, Lifelong Learning,  
and Student Welfare Iakovos Michailidis:

<https://we.tl/t-jZPMDkD01Cez6Z42>

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*We kindly request that this event be published, broadcast, and covered by the media.*