1. Introduction

1.1. Mission

The mission of the Biotechnical Faculty is the creation and preservation of top knowledge in the fields of biological and biotechnical sciences and landscape architecture and its mediation to society in the process of education and transfer of knowledge and technology into practice. Providing knowledge of biological laws, understanding the relation between the environment and society, protecting the environment and landscape, protection of the natural heritage, co-natural and sustainable use of natural resources, production and processing of high quality food and the development of contemporary technologies are permanent aims of the faculty and its first class, internationally comparable and qualified graduates.

1.2. Values

The Biotechnical Faculty has established an academic community of professors, researchers, students and other associates and strives for recognition at home and abroad. Its research, education, professional and public activities are based on the values of:

- academic excellence,
- providing high quality,
- academic freedom of researchers, pedagogues and students, in particular freedom of creativity and mutual cooperation,
- innovativeness,
- international orientation and comparability,
- autonomy in relation to society,
- humanism and human rights,
- an ethical and responsible attitude to nature and society.

1.3. Vision

The Biotechnical Faculty contributes to quality with the established aims and is among the group of most distinguished European faculties in the fields of life sciences, use and protection of natural resources and the environment. The faculty will become one of the more important regional institutions, which will communicate to society knowledge in the aforementioned fields and respond to topical domestic and international social questions.
2. Position of the Biotechnical Faculty

The Biotechnical Faculty in the past set the following aims:

- education of experts for understanding the structure and function of various ecosystems and understanding natural processes,
- education of experts for managing natural resources and production technologies connected with them,
- continuous and committed search for new, better and functional knowledge for everyday use,
- cooperation with society and the economy – linking practice and research,
- strengthening and deepening international cooperation,
- establishing a system of monitoring and ensuring quality,
- development of extra-curricular activities.

We note that the Biotechnical Faculty has changed in the past period in the direction of the set aims. The Biotechnical Faculty has increased the extent of research work, both within the national research program and in carrying out international research projects outside the national program of financing. The Biotechnical Faculty has modernised all its study programs in accordance with the principles of the Bologna Process. Interest in enrolment at the BF in comparison with other similar tertiary education institutions in the country remains high.

International cooperation of the Biotechnical Faculty is being strengthened. In the research field, it has increased both in extent and value of research activities and the number of international publications and their citation has also increased. The BF is recording a favourable trend in relation to the enrolment of foreign students on exchange and fewer domestic students are leaving for abroad. The BF also has other forms of internationalisation, such as common educational programs with other comparable foreign faculties and the implementation of programs abroad.

In the field of monitoring and ensuring quality, a framework has been established for monitoring quality, its elements have been developed and a group of indicators created by which the system of quality is linked with annual planning and reporting. A system of tutorship has been developed. A student questionnaire is carried out with the aim of providing feedback to teachers. A career centre has been set up.

As a review of individual fields shows, the BF has achieved greater linkage in the sphere of providing study programs. Its linkage is also reinforced through common functions, such as the library system, system of public procurement and similar systems.

2.1. Advantages and weaknesses
The Biotechnical Faculty can build its development on some comparative advantages. These are:

- the faculty combines a variety of scientific knowledge in the field of life sciences,
- tradition and name, which has national and international validity,
- qualified teachers and researchers,
- high concentration of knowledge of life and nature in Slovenia.

Similar as with advantages, the Biotechnical Faculty must also be attentive to its weak sides. These are:

- lesser effectiveness of studies, measured by transferability and duration of study,
- enrolment of new students with lower secondary school success,
- too little allegiance of students and staff to their own faculty,
- lower recognition of the faculty in the national and international environment – departments and individuals are known,
- unexploited potential of cooperation within departments and between departments of the BF in research and study fields,
- non-optimal composition and organisation of professional services, including business informatics.

2.2. Opportunities and risks

The domestic and international environment in which the Biotechnical Faculty operates is quickly changing and the faculty can have only limited influence on the changes. It must adapt and recognise suitable challenges in this. A relatively constant challenge for the Biotechnical Faculty will be the demographic fall.

In the coming years, the Biotechnical Faculty will still feel the effects of the financial, economic and social crisis, which will appear in a lack of public funds, smaller capacities of the economy to finance development and educational activities and also smaller capacities of individuals and their families. This is a challenge for the Biotechnical Faculty to use available resources better, to remove duplication of activities and to continue opening topical programs of research and education and abandoning less topical ones.

The institutional environment in which the Biotechnical Faculty operates will remain unpredictable. In this environment, the BF, as an important centre of knowledge in the country, must play an active role and actually co-create education and research policies and influence new legislative solutions.

Although the Slovene environment is central for the Biotechnical Faculty in Ljubljana, it is too small for the faculty to be able to develop its knowledge potential within it. It must become an important and recognised regional player. The space in which we consider that the possibilities for this are greatest, is Southeast Europe and the Mediterranean. The Biotechnical Faculty can also play a role of bridge
between this space and northwest and Central Europe, with which it already traditionally cooperates well.

3. Strategic priorities of the field
The strategic priorities of the field are harmonised with the university and include education and creating knowledge, use and transfer of knowledge and international comparability on the basis of high quality in all fields of operation. Providing conditions for work and studies is of crucial importance for all the enumerated aspects.

4. Ensuring conditions for realising the strategy

4.1. Spatial development
The Biotechnical Faculty carries out its activities in various locations in which there are individual departments and studies. The majority of them are concentrated in Rožna dolina, on Jamnikarjva ulica and Večna pot and one department operates in a location in Domžale. Together with individual land holdings and testing and production areas, the Biotechnical Faculty is dispersed over numerous locations, so better management of available spatial capacities is of key importance. Linkage between departments in the sense of better exploitation of spatial capacities is necessary.

New building until 2020 will be envisaged in accordance with the financial capacities of the faculty and it is necessary to continue the already started renovation of the oldest buildings, mainly for the purpose of their better energy efficiency.

4.2. Staff development
Similar as for the University of Ljubljana, self-reproduction of staff is also characteristic of the Biotechnical Faculty. It will thus be necessary in the future, in addition to attracting the best staff in the Slovene space, also to open calls for applications to the international space, in order to obtain foreign teachers and, above all, to encourage the circulation of staff between the faculty and practice. The BF will enable its employees ongoing further training and obtaining experience in the economy and in foreign tertiary education organisations. In compliance with legal possibilities and the guidelines of the University of Ljubljana, it will encourage a combination of pedagogic, research and professional (technical) work and encourage the transfer of technology into practice.

4.3. Information system of the Biotechnical Faculty
The Biotechnical Faculty has already to date always followed the guidelines of the University of Ljubljana and unified its information system; it has even tried to be among the first members of the UL to introduce some of the proposed systems. So it will also not have difficulty with the envisaged
transition to the unified information system, eVŠ, which the Ministry of Education is introducing in the school year 2012/13 or 2014.
It will increase the computer literacy of students and employees, ensure suitable hardware and software for the introduction of contemporary forms of study (including through electronic distance learning and ongoing modernisation of its own information and library systems and website).

4.4. Financial and organisational management of the Biotechnical Faculty

The Biotechnical Faculty will in future years strengthen and supplement the existing system of financial business and organisational management. Efforts will be directed towards the faculty having a comparable method of planning, monitoring and modifying its activities to similar organisations at home and abroad, which will ensure the most effective possible operation of the faculty and its units and will at the same time also provide suitable services for the activities of employees and individual faculty units.

For this purpose, in accordance with practice and the guidelines of the parent institution, the University of Ljubljana, the faculty will raise and as necessary introduce new standards of operation. It will strive for greater efficiency, transparency and cohesive capacity of operation of the faculty and its parts, also in the financial and organisational sense.