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SR-89-90-8 (AP)

Marshall University

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ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Recommendation
October 12, 1989

SR-89-90-8 (AP)

AP RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the seven commitments contained in the draft institutional mission statement be accepted as the commitments of Marshall University for the period 1990-95.

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT:

APPROVED BY SENATE: Kathryn Chiswick DATE: 10/26/89

DISAPPROVED BY SENATE: _____ DATE: _____

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

APPROVED: [Signature] DATE: 10-28-89

DISAPPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

10/13/89

Draft of Mission Statement

Preparation of this mission statement marks the beginning of a process for defining the future directions of Marshall University. This statement includes a number of general assumptions and beliefs about the mission of all universities, then attempts to relate these to particular goals for Marshall University. We hope that this analysis will take us beyond the yearly haste of establishing priorities for budget-making purposes to the formulation of long-term commitments and purposes.

Institutions of higher education share a common core of values. In this context, what are the principal values to which Marshall is committed?

The first and most basic commitment of Marshall University is to undergraduate education. The institution's traditional strengths have been the quality and breadth of undergraduate instruction; close interpersonal relationships between students and a faculty dedicated to teaching; and the availability of programs not usually offered at other state institutions. Marshall University will continue to maintain and enhance the excellence of undergraduate education as the cornerstone of the institution.

A second commitment of Marshall University is the enhancement of graduate education. Marshall should enlarge the range of cooperative doctoral programs in several specific areas in which the need is evident. In instances in which the state is not now being served, Marshall University should inaugurate and sustain stand-alone doctoral programs.

Third, Marshall University is committed to expanding the body of human knowledge and achievement through research and creative arts activities. A vigorous commitment to both research and creative achievement is a vital component of any modern university. The quest for knowledge which inspires research programs will be continued and nurtured at Marshall because it is central to the process of education. To make new discoveries or to develop new applications of existing knowledge are intrinsically worthwhile activities. These research and creative activities also reinforce the other components of the university's mission: active researchers and creative artists who keep abreast of current developments in a field are better teachers; and the search for answers to socio-economic problems unites the research capabilities of the university with its commitment to public service. A university is fueled by ideas; the continual reconsideration of old ideas and the thirst for new ideas energizes our academic community and contributes to the well-being of society.

A fourth characteristic of Marshall University is its commitment to society through public service. Marshall recognizes the three basic functions of any major university -- the discovery, transmission, and application of knowledge; and we see these functions as interrelated and accomplished through the activities of teaching, research, and consultation - each of which represents service to society. The university is committed to the idea that public service is an end result or outcome of all work that is generated through these three functions.

The university welcomes and encourages interaction with individuals, businesses, and governmental and community agencies. The organizational structure is in place for facilitating consulting, technical assistance, collaborate research and other activities which contribute to economic growth and stability. The university is committed to enhancing the quality of life by providing a variety of cultural events, and by encouraging and participating in the development of new cultural programs. Marshall has demonstrated that it is a major influence in improving the quality of health care, and it also is committed to continuing to provide a wide range of health-related services locally, regionally, and statewide.

A fifth commitment of Marshall University is to academic freedom and shared governance. This principle holds that faculty members must have the freedom to teach and to perform research unimpeded by threats or loss of jobs due to the nature of their investigation. Nowhere is the right to pursue one's own inquiry and to publish those findings more forcefully stated than in the American Association of University Professors' 1940 Statement on Academic Freedom. As a university, Marshall fully subscribes to this statement.

Moreover, participatory governance on the part of the faculty must exist at all levels of the university because they have the necessary expertise to understand what is required in the transmission of knowledge and the performance of research. At the same time, the structure of government should be as efficient as possible so that faculty energies are not depleted in excessive committee work.

A sixth commitment of this university is to encourage diversity in its student body, its faculty and staff, and its educational programs. Students drawn from diverse cultural and racial backgrounds enrich the atmosphere of a campus and help each other understand a world larger than the one drawn from

immediate experiences. Marshall University's students are best served by a faculty and staff who likewise come from diverse backgrounds. To this end the university fully subscribes to a program of affirmative action.

The University also is committed to programs which promote multi-cultural and international understanding. Exposure to cultures and value systems other than one's own is an integral part of a well-rounded education. Marshall University is committed to developing programs in international education and multi-cultural experiences for students, faculty and staff because they enrich our lives, make us better citizens, and prepare us to live in an increasingly interdependent world. Additionally, large numbers of Americans need to understand the significant issues in world affairs in order to staff the key institutions that regularly represent us abroad--business, government, the military, the media, and our religious organizations. We must provide an informed, internationally sophisticated public that will understand and support international policies.

Finally, Marshall University is committed to assuring the integrity of the curriculum through the maintenance of rigorous standards and high expectations for student learning and performance. This commitment to quality will not be interpreted, however, as a barrier to access for students. As a comprehensive

university with a broad range of programs and services, Marshall is firmly committed and ideally suited to meet diverse demands. Through the Yeager program, the John Marshall scholars' program, and the Honors program, Marshall can and does serve the academically talented. Likewise, Marshall provides special preparatory programs for students not academically ready for college.