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# SR-90-91-(56)117 (AP) SECOND REVISION

Marshall University

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ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Recommendation

SR-90-91-(56)117 (AP) SECOND REVISION

To approve the attached Mission Statement (second revision), which was revised at the request of the Chancellor of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Charles Manning, December, 1990.

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT:

APPROVED BY SENATE: Kathryn Sheikh DATE: 1/31/91

DISAPPROVED BY SENATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

APPROVED: Al B. Taylor DATE: 2/10/91

DISAPPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS:

Amended on Senate Floor - note  
(pp 1-5)  
changes. KNC

## **Mission Statement**

### **Marshall University**

**1990 – 1995**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Founded in 1837, Marshall University is a fully-accredited comprehensive urban university primarily serving West Virginia and its adjacent states. Students from the broader national and international community complete the university's student body. Traditionally more than 85 percent of the students enrolled have been West Virginia citizens. Marshall University is dedicated to achieving accessibility to the disabled and has strong programs to aid returning and non-traditional students. The Legislature in 1990 granted Marshall University Doctoral III status.

A variety of programs are offered at Marshall University through the College of Business, the Community College, the College of Education, the College of Fine Arts, the College of Liberal Arts, the School of Nursing, the College of Science, the Graduate School and the School of Medicine. The university will continue to develop programs and to provide informational resources in disciplines important to West Virginia's future.

The student body of approximately 12,400 is anticipated to remain stable through 1995. Marshall University is currently involved in a long-range master planning effort, and future facility requirements will be based on this analysis and recommendations.

## STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

While institutions of higher education differ in size and function, they share a common core of values; these help shape and guide their academic life. Marshall University is committed to seven basic principles.

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 excellent teaching, and the availability of programs designed to serve the needs of the region. Marshall University will continue to emphasize the excellence of undergraduate education as the cornerstone of the institution.

A second and major commitment of Marshall University is the enhancement of graduate education. Marshall offers a wide range of master's and professional graduate degrees, and the university will expand this range of master's level programs in areas of evident need. Arrangements will be sought with other graduate institutions within the University of West Virginia system to facilitate the offering of more cooperative doctoral level programs. In instances in which the state is not now being served, Marshall University will selectively 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 will be continued and nurtured at Marshall because it is central to the process of education. While new discoveries and/or the development of new applications of existing knowledge are intrinsically worthwhile, such research and creative activities also reinforce all other components of the university's

mission. 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 these functions are 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 encourages interaction with individuals, businesses and educational, governmental and community agencies. It is ready to provide consulting, technical assistance, collaborative research and other services 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 will continue to provide a wide range of regional and national health-related services.

Created in affiliation with the Huntington Veterans Administration Medical Center, the Marshall University School of Medicine is a community-based institution which provides the most desirable economic package for medical education and health services for West Virginians. The mission of the Marshall University School of Medicine is to maintain and improve the health of West Virginians by educating physicians and basic medical scientists, rigorously investigating significant issues involving health, and

providing direct and supportive health services to West Virginia citizens, health providers and institutions. This affects all portions of West Virginia and the central Appalachian region, but especially the southern, central and Ohio River areas of the state.

The School of Medicine will continue to expend a large measure of its resources in the area of rural primary care. This focus will allow a strategic response to special health care problems within the state. The orientation to rural primary care will be expressed in special efforts in recruitment, basic sciences and clinical education, graduate medical education, research, and continuing clinical support and education. The School of Medicine aspires to regional and national excellence in its programs.

A fifth commitment of this university is diversity in its student body, its faculty and staff, and its educational programs. The university is fully committed to a program of affirmative action and to an environment of teaching and learning which recognizes and welcomes diversity of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief and handicap. Students drawn from diverse cultural, racial and ethnic 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.

The university also is committed to programs which promote multicultural and international understanding. Exposure to many cultures and value systems is an integral part of a well-rounded education. Marshall University is committed to developing programs in international education and multicultural 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.

VNC

A sixth commitment of Marshall University is to academic freedom and shared governance. This principle holds that faculty members must have unimpeded freedom to teach and to perform research. 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 that statement. Moreover, participatory governance on the part of the faculty , students and staff must exist at all levels of the university.

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 is not intended, however, as a barrier to access for students. As a comprehensive university with a broad range of programs and services, Marshall is committed and suited to meet diverse demands. Through the Yeager Scholars Program, the John Marshall Scholarship 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.

### PROGRAMS & PRIORITIES

Present resources clearly hamper the role Marshall University can and should perform in the state; nevertheless, our priorities for the allocation of additional resources will further the academic mission of the university and will be directed to three areas: existing academic programs, accreditation and new degree programs.

A variety of programs at Marshall must be provided with new resources in order to achieve regional and national standards of academic quality and to accommodate planned enrollments. It is assumed that program reviews will dictate the allocations of resources.

New resources must also be allocated to accreditation. While Marshall is a fully accredited regional institution, many units of the university will need to seek, attain and maintain professional accreditation.

While Marshall University recognizes the value of intercollegiate athletics, there is always a danger that athletics or other nonacademic programs may overshadow the academic mission of the institution. The status of athletic or nonacademic programs should not be altered or upgraded without the advice of the Faculty Senate, nor should any athletic or nonacademic project or concern take precedence over academic projects and concerns.

And, finally, a claim on future resources must be made for new degree programs. Given the fact that Marshall was charged by the Carnegie Report to devise several "select, non-duplicative doctoral programs" in disciplines important to West Virginia's future economic growth, Marshall is proposing a range of stand-alone and cooperative degree programs.

## CONCLUSION

This document defines the mission of Marshall University. It is a statement of intent, designed as a broad framework within which to describe and direct future development of the institution. It is intended to have a degree of permanence that will enable individual units to develop their own long-range goals. The Mission Statement

is likewise intended to be a working document guiding administrators and faculty who in the future will make key decisions for the university.

WJK