



UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
FOUNDED 1830

MEMO

DATE: May 6, 1997
TO: Faculty, Staff, and Students
FROM: Zeddie Bowen *ZB*
SUBJECT: Review of the University Statement of Purpose

On the reverse side of this memorandum is a copy of the revised Statement of Purpose that will be presented to the University Faculty on May 12 and to the Board of Trustees on May 16, 1997 for their consideration and action. This revision was prepared by the Committee to Review the Statement of Purpose after receiving suggestions and recommendations in writing and at the open meeting for faculty, staff and students on April 18, 1997.

Note the only major change is in the last sentence of the first paragraph from which references to legally protected categories have been removed altogether. The Committee recognized that the Statement of Purpose is not the place for the University's formal and required policy statement on non-discrimination, nor is this the time of year for a campus-wide discussion of the inclusion of sexual orientation in that policy.

By removing all references to protected categories, approval of the Statement of Purpose, which is required as part of the reaffirmation of our accreditation, can move forward in a timely fashion for approval by the University Faculty and the Board of Trustees.

Discussion of the non-discrimination policy, and whether or not sexual orientation should be added to it, may take place at a less hurried time next fall when classes are again in session.

ZPB:sl

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

(With changes recommended by review committee 5/97)

The University of Richmond is an independent, privately endowed, institution of higher education that provides a comprehensive academic program for men and women. It offers the intimacy of a small university and the diverse educational opportunities that derive from undergraduate degree programs in the liberal arts and sciences, business, and leadership studies, as well as graduate and professional programs in law, business, and selected areas of the arts and sciences. The University also provides a variety of credit and continuing education programs as well as cultural events to the larger community. Historically related to the Baptist General Association of Virginia, the University affirms its commitment to serve individuals of all faiths and persuasions, ~~without regard to race, sex, age, physical handicap or national origin.~~

The Educational objectives of the University are:

- to cultivate in students the interest, capacity, and skills necessary for independent intellectual inquiry and life-long learning;
- to convey to students a representative portion of that body of knowledge that has accumulated and endured through the history of world cultures;
- to encourage and aid students in the development of basic beliefs, values, and attitudes, **including those of cooperation and tolerance;**
- to assist students in selecting and preparing for careers and for study in graduate and professional schools;
- to foster in students personal habits that contribute to health and physical fitness.

In order to achieve these objectives, the University is committed to:

- an educational environment conducive to the development of the whole person-- intellectually, socially, spiritually, physically, and morally;
- an academic setting that guarantees and encourages freedom of thought, expression, and association;
- an undergraduate curriculum that requires mastery of essential intellectual tools, ~~understanding of basic aspects of human culture;~~ **awareness of the diversity of human cultural experiences,** extensive knowledge of at least one area of study, ~~and physical exercise and opportunities for interdisciplinary and integrative inquiry;~~
- a faculty dedicated primarily to excellent teaching and dialogue with students, ~~while remaining and actively engaged~~ **active engagement in scholarly scholarship, scientific inquiry, and artistic creativity;**
- a diverse, largely full-time and residential student body that participates in a broad range of University activities **including opportunities for research, leadership, and the development of civic responsibility;**
- the essential resources for learning, such as libraries, laboratories, studios, ~~computers~~ **information and communications technology,** and ~~audio-visual facilities and materials~~ **media resources;**
- opportunities for **internships, social commitment and public service, internships, travel and study abroad** and other **appropriate domestic and international learning experiences;** ~~outside the campus~~
- a program of varied social, spiritual, and physical activities that provide occasions for growth, fun, and fellowship;
- an administration and staff that preserve and enhance the University's environment and resources, and that represent the institution to the broader community it serves.

Adopted by
University of Richmond Board of Trustees
May 1997