

**Constitution  
of the  
Association of Marianist Universities**  
Approved October 15, 2012

**Article I – Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Association of Marianist Universities.

**Article II – Mission, Purposes and Objectives**

The Mission of the Association of Marianist Universities (the Association) is to support, promote and advance Marianist higher education. The Association does this by facilitating an environment to sustain cooperation and the exchange of experience and information among the members. The Association represents Marianist higher education at the national and international levels and contributes to the formation of leaders in the Catholic and Marianist educational traditions in their service to the Church and world.

In order to assist the Board of Directors in the carrying out of this mission, the national office of the Association of Marianist Universities shall:

1. Serve as the coordinating center for the work of Marianist higher education in the United States, while respecting the autonomy of individual institutions.
2. Regularly share information with all member institutions concerning areas of particular interest to Marianist higher education, including pertinent information about its individual institutions.
3. Cooperate with and represent Marianist higher education and its interests to other educational groups at the national and international levels, especially associations of higher education.
4. Coordinate the work of such committees and work groups as may be established within the Association, including, contact and exchange of information among these committees and work groups.
5. Provide information and programs that will help to articulate the mission and characteristics of Marianist higher education and to promote and facilitate professional development of faculty and staff in areas related to this mission and its characteristics.
6. Promote interaction and cooperation with the Province of the United States and the ministries it sponsors, the Roman Catholic Church, and cooperate in the educational efforts of other churches and religions.

7. Monitor trends and developments in higher education and recommend appropriate responses consistent with the Marianist mission in higher education.

### **Article III – Membership**

Membership in this Association shall be voluntary.

There are two types of members: (1) institutional members, and (2) a corporate member. Institutional members are the three Marianist-sponsored universities in the United States, namely Chaminade University of Honolulu in Hawaii (Chaminade); St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas (St. Mary's); and the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio (UD). The corporate member is the Province of the United States of the Society of Mary.

The continuing membership of any institution as an institutional member in this Association shall be assessed from time to time by the Board of Directors according to established guidelines. New institutional members may be admitted by the Board if they are accredited colleges or universities in the United States and are judged by the Board to be "Marianist" according to the same guidelines.

### **Article IV – Board of Directors and Officers**

The Board of Directors ordinarily shall have eight members and will be drawn from the institutional members, and the corporate member. The Board members drawn from the institutional members are the three presidents and the sponsorship officers<sup>1</sup> of the three Marianist-sponsored universities. The corporate member is represented on the Board by the Provincial Assistant for Education and the Director of Marianist Educational Studies and Partnerships or any two designees of the Provincial Council, provided at least one is a member of the Provincial Council.

The authority in the government of the Association shall rest with the Board of Directors, which shall have the power to determine policies for the Association.

The Board shall select a chair from the president-members.

The term of office for the chair shall be for a single term of three years. Unless determined by the Board to the contrary, the appointment of the Chair will cycle among the Presidents of Chaminade, St. Mary's and UD in this order.

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<sup>1</sup> As of Summer 2012, the Sponsorship Officer at Chaminade University has the title Rector; at the University of Dayton it is Vice President of Mission and Rector; and at St. Mary's the title is Vice President, Mission and Identity

## **Article V – Meetings**

Each year, one of the regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be designated the Annual Meeting of the Association. Unless determined to the contrary by the Board, the annual meeting will be the meeting held in conjunction with the meeting of the Association of Catholic Colleges and University's meeting at the end of January. Ordinarily, each year two additional Board meetings are held at times mutually agreeable to the members of the Board. Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Board or by a majority of the members of the Board. Board meetings may be conducted using teleconferencing resources. At times between the meetings of the Board, the Chair may conduct a consent ballot facilitated by telephonic/electronic means.

## **Article VI – Committees**

Standing, that is, permanent committees shall be established pursuant to the purposes of the Association.

*Ad hoc* committees shall be established at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Examples of ad hoc committees may include a search committee for the recruitment of the Executive Director; an evaluation/compensation committee that reviews the work and/or sets the compensation of the Executive Director.

The Board of Directors shall be empowered to dissolve any existing committees, both standing and *ad hoc*, or create others.

The establishment of a committee shall include a clear mandate as well as guidelines for size and qualifications of membership.

Appointment to membership on committees shall be made by the Board of Directors. It is understood that membership on the committees may draw on the total resources of the member institutions (including faculty, students, administrators, parents, alumni, trustees, etc.).

The duration of these appointments shall be at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

All actions recommended by either standing or ad hoc committees when beyond their mandate require ratification by the Board.

## **Article VII – National Office**

There shall be a national office, under the direction of the Executive Director of the Association and appointed by the Board, that will serve the member institutions according to the purposes of the Association. The Executive Director will support the president and sponsorship officers at the universities and assist in the formation of Marianist Educational Associates at the universities. The national office shall receive direction from the Board and its committees in identifying a priority of desired services. It shall also provide support for projects determined by the Association and its committees.

## **Article VIII – Finances**

The expenses of the Association shall be borne by the Association's members according to the assessment formula determined by the Board of Directors.

## **Article IX – Amendments to the Constitution**

Proposed amendments to or changes in this Constitution must be submitted to the Board of Directors by any Board member at least two weeks before a regular meeting of the Board. To become effective, such proposed amendments or changes shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the entire Board.

## **Article X – Bylaws**

The Board of Directors of the Association shall have the power to draw-up bylaws for the Association.

Amendments to or changes in the bylaws must be proposed to the Board of Directors by a president of one of the universities at least two weeks prior to a regular meeting of the Board. To become effective, such amendments or changes shall require a simple majority vote of the entire Board.

## **Article XI – Dissolution**

In case of dissolution of the Association of Marianist Universities, the assets shall be distributed to the Association's members according to the assessment formula in use at the time of dissolution.

Any outstanding debts will be paid by the Association's members according to the same assessment formula.