

MSUO - PURPOSES

The primary purpose of any university is to encourage the maximum possible intellectual development of each student. This is not to imply that other values -- morality, citizenship, personality -- are not important or shall be ignored by a university, but a student entering a university without a knowledge of what thing among others is first starts with a handicap.

Each social institution exists to accomplish a purpose. Churches have their fundamental objectives in the realm of morality, industries must produce goods, families must rear the young. Only colleges and universities have been established by society specifically to deal with the human capacity for learning at an advanced level. To forget this is to betray the trust of the society which supports our institutions of higher learning.

Of course, students do not live in a vacuum, and there are secondary learning experiences which not only support the primary, but which are important in themselves. Living and working with other students can teach much about man's historic endeavor to control himself and achieve desirable objectives through cooperation. The assumption of responsibility in student organizations can develop integrity. And most important in a public university is the realization by its students that the knowledge and skills which they acquire must be brought to the service of the people composing their society.

Put another way, it is the university's obligation to assist each student to attain the knowledge and skills necessary to make him proficient as a professional, competent as a citizen, and happy as a human being; and all of this it must do in a context which never lets the student forget the words of a very wise scholar, "No

man has a right to lead such a life of contemplation as to forget in his ease the service due to his neighbor".