

Letter of Resolution from the Committee on Research: On the Importance of Research and Scholarship at Marquette

Marquette University is a Catholic, Jesuit university dedicated to serving God by serving our students and contributing to the advancement of knowledge. **Our mission**, therefore, is the search for truth, the discovery and sharing of knowledge, the fostering of personal and professional excellence, the promotion of a life of faith, and the development of leadership expressed in service to others. All this we pursue for the greater glory of God and the common benefit of the human community.

Research and Scholarship are critical to the purpose of the University and the pursuit of its mission. Marquette is called to search for truth and discover knowledge to educate our students and serve others.

Importance of Research and Scholarship to the Education of Marquette Students

Jesuit education calls for more than mere schooling in received wisdom. It demands mutual engagement of faculty and students in a continual and common search for truth and justice. Research and scholarship are essential to the creation of the culture needed to establish the intellectual and moral growth and excellence required of our students. Modern students and leaders require unprecedented abilities. This includes the depth of specialized knowledge required of modern graduates in many disciplines, the capacity to critically evaluate remarkable volumes of information and ideas, and the ability to employ a range of problem-solving approaches and skills.

In turn, the existing and near-term alternatives to higher education will require Marquette to address the needs of the modern student more effectively. Research and scholarship, as high-impact experiential learning practices, address this need in multiple ways. First, a vibrant culture based in research and scholarship creates learning opportunities that cannot be duplicated by online programs or other alternatives to higher education. This culture of research and scholarship informs teaching and learning at all levels; provides hallmark experiences that improve our undergraduates' success in their chosen careers and admission to graduate programs; and lays the intellectual foundation required to effectively train our own graduate and professional students. Second, a commitment to the Jesuit approach to knowledge generation will continue to attract the brightest students and faculty. Our community of scholars breathe new life into classes, programs, experiences, and opportunities for the entire Marquette community, including faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Research-active faculty substantially increase the institution's ranking and reputation, as well as the range and quality of work to which students are exposed. Third, the integration and inclusion of modern, cutting-edge knowledge enhances course content to a degree that cannot be duplicated by textbooks and other widely available teaching resources. This enhancement advances collaborative opportunities that translate faculty interdisciplinary, collaborative research into student interdisciplinary experiences. A recent example includes the University's community approaches to the COVID-19 pandemic, which leveraged our role as a research and student-focused institution to bring together scholars from the Marquette community (including faculty, staff, and students) to agilely address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic,

explore the underlying issues that exacerbated the pandemic's impact on vulnerable and underserved populations, and develop strategies to address the needs of our changing world.

Importance of Research and Scholarship to the University's Service to Others

The mission of the University is grounded in a Catholic, Christian understanding of God, the human person and society, and the betterment and advancement of our community. Research and scholarship are essential to the change of societal practice that leads to the Greater Glory of God. This occurs through the identification of the problems inherent in our society as well as the discovery of innovative solutions that create a more just society. While this is true of any University, it is especially important to Marquette given our institutional commitment to *cura personalis*, service to other, and pursuit of a more just society. Research activity affects the lives of our immediate and greater area community members, by providing better access to cutting-edge programs, treatments, practices, and knowledge to which they otherwise may not have access. Across campus, Marquette scholars are successfully addressing current and future problems related to the physical and mental health of humans, efficient preservation and utilization of Earth's resources, disparities that suppress the most vulnerable, and other barriers to a more just, equitable society. They/we seek to understand the human experience through the interdisciplinary analysis of texts, language, and objects that explicate the past, raise questions about the present, and offer guides to future possibilities. Scholars create knowledge by posing new questions, reinterpreting cultural artifacts, and offering critical analyses that develop different perspectives. A vibrant culture of research and scholarship thus is essential to attract students, faculty, and donors that are committed to this goal.

The Future of Research in Action

The future of research and scholarship at Marquette University must be responsive to the serious financial challenges that the University faces. However, we remain committed to the vision of Marquette as an active research university that engages its community of scholars in improving the lives of others and making the world more equitable. Marquette's research activities should continue to serve as a means for attracting and retaining talented students, faculty, and staff and as a conduit for the discovery and sharing of knowledge to benefit the human community.

Signed*:

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