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Charter of Sacred Heart University: Objectives

Sacred Heart University

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OBJECTIVES

CHARTER OF SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY, INCORPORATED

Sacred Heart University, Incorporated, was chartered under the provisions of Special Act. No. 27 enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened on March 14, 1963.

The Act was as follows:

"AN ACT INCORPORATING SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY, INCORPORATED

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 SECTION 1. Walter W. Curtis, James P. Devine, John F.
2 Mc Gough, James R. Kerr and Donald McGannon and their
3 successors, and such other persons as may be associated with
4 them in accordance with the by-laws of the corporation, are
5 constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of Sacred
6 Heart University, Incorporated, to be located in the town of
7 Fairfield, county of Fairfield and state of Connecticut.
- 1 SEC. 2. The purpose of said corporation shall be to establish
2 organize, maintain and conduct an institution for intermediate
3 secondary, undergraduate and graduate education in the state
4 of Connecticut, and to perform such other works of education,
5 charity and religion, as may be determined by its by-laws and
6 pursuant to the general statutes relating to the organization of
7 corporations without capital stock.
- 1 SEC. 3. Said corporation shall have the right to receive by
2 purchase, gift, grant, subscription, devise, bequest or otherwise
3 and to hold, improve, mortgage, lease, sell or otherwise convey
4 and use any estate real or personal, appropriate, necessary or
5 useful that the purposes of the corporation may require, and all
6 other property which shall have been in good faith mortgaged
7 or conveyed to it by way of security or in satisfaction of debts;
8 it shall have the right to issue promissory notes or other evi-
9 dences of indebtedness to the same extent as corporations which
10 have capital stock and have been organized under the general
11 laws of the state; it may contract, sue and be sued, complain
12 and defend in any court.
- 1 SEC. 4. Said corporation shall have the right to make and
2 use a common seal and alter the same, to make, adopt and
3 amend by-laws which shall provide for the government and
4 direction of the corporation, to fix the number of corporation
5 members, to regulate the election of trustees and to confer all
6 such academic degrees as are usually given in colleges and uni-
7 versities.

1 SEC. 5. Should there be an excess of income over expendi-
2 tures in any one year, or should there be any assets remaining
3 after the payment of all existing debts, then such excess income
4 or assets thereafter remaining shall be applied as follows: In
5 the reduction of the tuitional fees, or in the establishment of
6 scholarships, or in the advancing of educational or charitable
7 facilities; and, in the event of the dissolution of the corporation
8 any remaining assets or surplus shall be conveyed, transferred
9 and delivered to The Bridgeport Roman Catholic Diocesan
10 Corporation, an ecclesiastical corporation organized under the
11 laws of the state of Connecticut, for the uses and purposes of
12 said diocese, or its successors and assigns thereafter, and if said
13 Roman Catholic diocese is not then in existence, then said as-
14 sets shall be conveyed, transferred and delivered to the state
15 of Connecticut."

On January 24, 1969 the Certificate of Incorporation was amended as follows:

"Resolved that Section 2 of Act concerning the incorporation of Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut be amended to read as follows:

'The purpose of said corporation shall be to establish, organize, maintain and conduct an institution for intermediate, secondary, undergraduate and graduate education in the State of Connecticut, and to perform such other works of education and charity, as may be determined by its by-laws and pursuant to the general statutes relating to the organization of corporations without capital stock.'

Resolved that Section 3 of said Act be amended to read as follows:

'The care, control and disposition of the property and funds of said corporation and the general management of its affairs shall be vested in a Board of Trustees. Said corporation shall have power to adopt by-laws for the government of its affairs, which by-laws shall prescribe, inter alia, the number of trustees, their terms of office and the manner of their appointment, including the right to make said Board of Trustees a self-perpetuating Board.'

Resolved that Section 4 of said Act be amended to read as follows:

'Said University shall have power, in accordance with the by-laws and subject to such requirements and standards as may be prescribed by the State Board of Education, to confer degrees and grant other evidences of accomplishment as are customary in such educational institutions.'

Resolved that Section 5 of said Act be amended to read as follows:

'Said corporation and its property shall be forever devoted to educational and charitable purposes. No officer, regent, member, employee or other agent thereof shall receive any pecuniary profit from its operations except reasonable compensation for services in effecting one or more of its purposes or a proper beneficiary of its strictly educational and charitable purposes. In the event of the dissolution of the corporation, any surplus remaining shall be conveyed, transferred and delivered to such other institution or institutions of learning in the State of Connecticut specifically designated by the Board of Trustees, or in the absence of such designation, then to the State of Connecticut.'

The number of affirmative votes required to adopt such resolution is two-thirds. Ten of twelve of the directors were present and unanimously approved.

Under the original charter as amended, the institution is authorized to establish, organize, maintain and conduct intermediate, secondary, undergraduate, and graduate education in the State of Connecticut. It is also authorized to perform such other works of education and charity as may be determined by its by-laws and pursuant to the general statutes relating to the organization of corporations without capital stock. Here it should be noted that the amendment of Section 2 eliminates the matter of performing works of religion as was indicated in the original charter.

The University is authorized to offer degrees of Associate of Arts and Associate of Science, (Junior College), and Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science. While the incorporating Act authorized Sacred Heart University to offer graduate education, such is not encompassed as part of present University planning or in the foreseeable future. Section 2 of the incorporating Act as amended, constitutes the objectives as stated in the charter.

Sacred Heart University derives its objectives from the philosophy of Christian education in twentieth century America. It exists to assist men and women to develop completely as human persons in an environment which recognizes both the supernatural and the natural. Specifically its objectives are:

1. Intellectual development of its students through an integrated program of liberal education with concentration in a particular academic field. By introducing the student

to the principal fields of knowledge, it seeks to help him develop his powers to know, judge, and reason, to analyze and synthesize, to discriminate, discern and appreciate.

2. Moral and spiritual growth in a Judeo-Christian atmosphere conducive to the development of stable character, and a sense of moral responsibility to self, community and nation.
3. Career preparation for business, for teaching, and for the areas in which liberal arts are applicable to the diversified needs of society. The study and analysis of principles and skills are supplemented where appropriate by practical experience.

When Sacred Heart University was formed there were at the outset, nine faculty members, all with the rank of instructor during that first year. The administrative officers presented to the Board of Trustees a recommendation for a statement of objectives. After studying the recommended statement and making such modifications as they thought necessary, the Board of Trustees specified the objectives. These were filed with the State Department of Education. There was an understanding that as soon as a more complete faculty had been assembled that the faculty would be free to reconsider the objectives and to recommend modification of them as they saw fit.

When one reflects upon each of the objectives, it would be difficult to quarrel with the value of the objectives as stated. Certainly intellectual development through an integrated program of liberal education with concentration in a particular academic field is essential if an individual is said to be truly liberally educated.

While there has been some difference of opinion upon the part of some faculty members as to the suitability of the first objective to all of the student body of Sacred Heart University, this objective should be considered with the qualification that the faculty should work toward its achievement by viewing students as individuals and educating each to the optimum degree possible in keeping with his potential.

The second objective would appear to be very fitting and necessary at this time in the history of our country and in the light of national and world problems. That the third objective as stated is being met can be noted from the types of business establishments employing Sacred Heart University graduates who have taken career preparation. Among them are the following, some of whom have recruited our graduates from succeeding graduating classes: