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Editorial

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Editorial

Dordt College has a statement of purpose entitled *The Educational Task of Dordt College*. This statement is divided into four parts which, along with representative quotations, can be described as follows:

I. The Basis

...Dordt College confesses that the Bible provides the determinative and essential principles for a Christian educational philosophy. (p. 2)

II. The Context

Dordt College desires to be an institution of Christian learning for the benefit of both the attending student body and the entire Christian community, so that the Lord's Kingdom may come to greater expression. (p. 8)

III. The Content

...Dordt, as a Christian college aims to train Kingdom citizens aware of the demands of the cultural mandate, equipped to take their place and carry out their tasks within the community of believers, able to discern the spiritual direction of our civilization, and prepared to advance, in loving service, the claims of Christ over all areas of life. (p. 10)

IV. The Implementation

The components of the curriculum—namely, courses in academic disciplines, studies of history and contemporary problems, major and pre-professional programs, and skill courses—together constitute the basic ingredients required by the student to attain genuine Christian insight and wisdom. (p. 15)

The College does not regard its purpose statement as fixed and final. It is subject to revisions, deletions, and additions—in fact, work is now being done on a chapter concerning academic authority. Nevertheless, the statement, as it now stands, is intended to guide Dordt College—administration,

faculty, and students—in the fulfillment of its educational responsibility.

At the same time, many are concerned that *The Educational Task of Dordt College* may be placed on some remote shelf in the library where it will be viewed as nothing more than an historical document and soon be forgotten. If this were to happen there would be at least two harmful results. First, the statement of purpose would no longer serve its intent in guiding and directing the College. Second, the College could incorrectly assume that the mere existence of the statement guarantees Dordt's continuation as a Christian academic institution.

To avoid such a turn of events the Dordt College Studies Institute has been authorized to sponsor an Arts Seminar for the summer of 1982, in which members of the Arts Division (along with people from other disciplines) will meet to discuss and consider ways in which the statement of purpose can be given further implementation in their particular program. Those involved in this study hope to come to a clearer understanding not only of the nature but also of the curricular and pedagogical implications of their field of investigation.

The initiation of this program does not imply a lack of perspective in the departments in the Arts Division. It does, however, indicate the awareness of those involved that neither the Arts nor any other division has arrived at a clear and complete understanding of the implications of the statement of purpose for their particular area of study. Developing such understanding, it is believed, will significantly contribute insight into our task as Christian educators. However, to attain such understanding requires continued and communal effort by every segment of the academic community. Therefore, in following summers other divisions will be encouraged to conduct seminars with the same purpose in mind.

It is the hope of the editor that the fruits of this work will find their way into the pages of *Pro Rege*.

J. B. Hulst