ARTICLE I

PURPOSE OF THE UNIVERSITY

A. The general purpose of Xavier University is to encourage and assist its members to seek and value truth, to preserve and disseminate it, and to follow the dictates of wisdom in their lives. More specifically, the University maintains and directs activities essential to the intellectual, the cultural, the religious, the spiritual, and the moral enrichment of its members.

B. By its commitment without reservation to the cause of truth, Xavier University seeks to serve at one and the same time both the dignity of the human person and the good of the church, which has “an intimate conviction that the truth is (its) real ally …and that knowledge and reason are sure ministers of faith.” [John Henry Newman, The Idea of a University (London: Longmans, 1931), p. XI.] As a Catholic institution of higher learning, Xavier University is dedicated to the research of all aspects of truth in their connection with the supreme Truth, who is God [see Ex Corde Ecclesiae, Introduction, #4.].

C. As befits a Catholic and Jesuit university, education at Xavier is characterized by a commitment to reflect upon the growing treasury of human knowledge in the light of the Catholic faith and an institutional commitment to the service of others. As an institution, Xavier University manifests a Christian inspiration and a commitment to an accurate presentation of the teachings of the Catholic Church. [See Ex Corde, Part I, #13.]

D. As befits a Catholic and Jesuit university, Xavier University affirms academic freedom and promotes open and free inquiry.

E. As befits a Catholic and Jesuit university, Xavier University affirms religious liberty and respects individual conscience. As noted in Ex Corde Ecclesiae: An Application to the United States: “Recognizing the dignity of the human person, a Catholic university, in promoting its own Catholic identity and fostering Catholic teaching and discipline, must respect the religious liberty of every individual, a right with which each is endowed by nature.” [Part 2: Particular Norms, art. 2, #4.]

F. To this end, the University guides and aids its undergraduate students in their acquiring first a basic knowledge and understanding of the liberal arts and sciences, including theology, and provides for concentration in these studies.

The University also prepares its students for the professions and business. This is accomplished by the intelligent and thorough study of the principles and teachings underlying and appropriate to these disciplines.

By promoting students’ intellectual, moral, and spiritual development, the University strives to form students who can make significant contributions to the good of society, the Church and the world. 2

G. The University fosters scholarly investigation and creative activity so that its members may contribute to humanity’s quest for the fullness of truth and for humanity’s diverse expressions of meaning.