

SECTION II

INSTITUTIONAL PURPOSE

The mission statement of the University of Kentucky is clearly defined and appropriate to collegiate education. It was developed through the efforts of the institution's faculty and administration, and the Board of Trustees approved the strategic plan with its current mission statement and vision and values statements on May 5, 1998. The mission statement serves as the foundation for institutional operations, programs and activities, and it is addressed each fall when the President provides an annual report to the Board of Trustees.

The Committee was informed during its visit that it is the practice of the institution to review the mission statement every five years, when the strategic plan is reviewed. However, it also was reported that the policy of reviewing the mission statement has not yet achieved the level of an administrative regulation and, thus, is unavailable in writing to the University community and others.

The official posture and practice of the institution appear consistent with the mission statement, and appropriate publications cite the current mission statement. These publications include the undergraduate and graduate catalogs, faculty and student handbooks, and university planning documents that are in both hard copy and on-line formats.

The self-study committee reported that the general nature of the University's mission statement sometimes makes it difficult for individual units to relate the accomplishment of unit goals directly back to the University's mission statement, but the Committee found evidence that the University's planning and evaluation processes,

educational programs, educational support services, financial and physical resources, and administrative processes are generally adequate and appropriate to fulfill its stated purpose.

(Recommendation 2) The Committee recommends that the institution study periodically its statement of purpose, considering internal changes as well as the changing responsibilities of the institution to its constituencies, and that the policy on regular review of the statement of purpose be in writing and published in appropriate institutional documents accessible to those affected by the policy.