

The following excerpts are taken from the Southwestern Assemblies of God University Institutional Policy Manual pages 10-12 and 33-34.

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Southwestern Assemblies of God University is a Bible-based school for theological and professional studies. It is rooted in the great commission of Jesus to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation," and to "make disciples of all nation . . . teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Mark 16:15a; Matt. 28:19-20), which is the primary emphasis of Southwestern's parent body, the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The purpose of Southwestern Assemblies of God University is to prepare undergraduate and graduate students spiritually, academically, professionally, and cross culturally so as to successfully fill evangelistic, missionary and church ministry roles and to provide quality educational and professional Christian service wherever needed throughout the world.

### OBJECTIVES

All of Southwestern's resources, both physically and financially, are designated toward providing the students with educational studies on the undergraduate and graduate levels that will appropriately qualify them for their selected professions.

The objectives for Southwestern students are as follows:

1. To demonstrate spiritual maturity with a priority of using their preparation at Southwestern as a foundation for further spiritual development and experiences.
2. To demonstrate competence in their respective academic pursuits.
3. To matriculate into Christian service both nationally and internationally in ministerial and professional roles.
4. To adjust politically, culturally, and spiritually to a global society by means of courses related to cross-cultural diversity, contemporary world issues, workshops, and other events supporting societal awareness and application.

### STATEMENT OF CORE VALUES

#### ***Bible-based Education***

God is the ultimate source of all knowledge and truth and has revealed Himself in Scripture; therefore, SAGU is committed to the authority of the Bible and the integration of biblical values in all academic disciplines. The pursuit of truth and its application in every area of life comes through understanding the Word of God and knowing Christ. The university intends that students will deepen their understanding of Scripture and develop well-founded theological convictions for a life of Christian service through a carefully selected core of Bible and theology curriculum.

#### ***Academic Excellence***

SAGU is a university devoted, under God, to the pursuit of truth through the use of the mind. Students, therefore, are encouraged to bring their minds in submission to Christ and fulfill their responsibilities as stewards, and work for the integration of thinking and learning in the framework of a Christian worldview. Students are encouraged to develop their minds and intellects in the pursuit of knowing Christ and his creation, and seeking God's direction as they choose a vocation or career path.

#### ***Spiritual Formation***

SAGU is committed to fostering spiritual formation among students that produces life-long spiritual growth and character development. Students are encouraged to develop their understanding of biblical faith, increase their

desire to know and serve God, and develop personal integrity and character by applying biblical values to their lives. Chapel and local church participation is emphasized because worship is an important element in the university's strategy for spiritual formation.

### ***Missions-mindedness***

SAGU is founded on the belief that every believer has a personal responsibility for the Great Commission. SAGU intends that students will embrace missions-mindedness as evidenced by life-long personal involvement in world evangelism, a life of intercessory prayer for the lost, personal witness, contributing resources to world evangelism, and a willingness to go into full-time missionary work (if called by God) or, at a minimum, participate in a short-term mission trip.

### ***Pentecostal Distinction***

SAGU is committed to an environment that encourages students to experience Spirit baptism according to Pentecostal theology to obtain additional power for witness, personal edification through speaking in tongues in private prayer, and additional enablement through spiritual gifts, while continually pursuing spiritual formation and a Spirit-formed character. The university also encourages the operation of the gifts of the Spirit in worship services according to the scriptural directive.

### ***Servant Leadership and Ministry***

SAGU's mission is founded on the belief that God intends every believer be actively involved in ministry that reflects service and servanthood. Fulfilling the mission of the church requires all believers, no matter their chosen career and calling, to work in team-like fashion using their unique gifts and talents in churches and ministries around the world as pastors, board members, elders, deacons, and heads of creative ministries in the pattern of the servant ministry of Jesus Christ.

### ***Community and Personal Wellness***

SAGU is committed to the understanding that discipleship occurs in community and in relationship, therefore students are encouraged to develop the social and relational skills needed to contribute to an affirming, loving, and giving community of believers. Additionally students are encouraged toward emotional and physical health for the purpose of enabling long, faithful service unto God. Eating properly, sleeping adequately, exercising regularly, and sufficient rest properly honors God through the body.

## **DOCTRINAL STATEMENT**

Southwestern embraces and supports the doctrinal teachings of the General Council of the Assemblies of God as set forth in Article V, Statement of Fundamental Truths, in its official Constitution. Those truths are summarized below:

We Believe. . .

- the Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative written Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16)
- there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19)
- in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years (John 1:1)
- in the blessed hope - the rapture of the Church at Christ's coming (Titus 2:13)
- the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ (John 14:6)
- regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation (Titus 3:5)
- in water baptism by immersion (Matthew 28:19)

- the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer (1 Peter 2:24)
- the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it
- in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life (Galatians 5:16-25)
- in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation (Revelation 20:11-15)

## **CHRISTIAN STANDARDS**

Southwestern, being an Assemblies of God school, embraces standards of living and conduct that are the same as those generally accepted by the Pentecostal churches in America. These are characterized by clean conduct and conversation, modest apparel in dress, high standards of moral life, strong commitment to excellence in educational and professional development, and a deep consecration and devotion in spiritual life.

High Christian standards should be related to all facets of university life. Though they must certainly be reflected in the spiritual development of the student, they do not end there. Christian citizenship is a Biblical obligation. Christian ethics extend into the intellectual development of an individual. Christian morality also regulates the Christian in social relationships. The Christian will assume responsibilities in the educational community with cheerfulness and friendliness. Relationship between sexes at Southwestern must reflect moral purity as well as distaste for promiscuity. High standards are imposed in the area of physical development. This results in habits and diets that contribute to good health and physical well being.

The same high standards of Christian ethics and conduct apply to faculty, staff, and students. General student conduct regulations are explained in the Student Handbook. The Student Conduct Committee is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the high Christian standards of the Student Community. The committee may require a student who does not embrace the aims and ideals of the University to withdraw, if the general welfare of the University demands it.

## **TRADITION**

The modern Pentecostal movement calls attention to definite Christian experiences, personal holiness, spiritual endowment for service, and an intense evangelical spirit. Southwestern wholeheartedly embraces these features and is committed to perpetuate this worthy tradition.

## **EMPLOYEE CONDUCT AND RELATIONSHIPS**

### **Alcohol/Drug Policy Statement**

Southwestern Assemblies of God University, in accordance with high Christian standards of living, is committed to maintaining a drug-free environment. In support of the Drug-Free Work Place Act of 1988, 4 CFR Part 85, Subpart F, Southwestern has adopted the following policy statements as conditions of employment:

As a condition of employment, the unlawful manufacturing, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance or alcohol is prohibited at anytime. The University will comply with all applicable legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol.

The University will distribute literature describing the health risk associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol.

All employees found in violation of the policy will be referred to the office of the Vice President for Business & Finance. All employees are required to notify their supervisor of any known criminal drug statute conviction or a violation occurring at the University no later than five days after knowledge of such conviction or violation.

The penalty for violation of any of the above statements may be termination from employment with referral given to the appropriate authorities for thorough prosecution.

The University will conduct an annual review of its program to (a) determine its effectiveness and implement changes if they are needed; and (b) ensure that the sanctions developed are consistently enforced.

#### Divorce Guidelines

The marital status of all administration and faculty is governed by the same guidelines which are generally applicable to ordained ministers in the Assemblies of God.

#### Dress Code

Southwestern Assemblies of God University staff, faculty, and administration should strive to present a professional image to students and visitors. In all instances the attire should be attractive, modest, clean and neat. To reinforce this image, employees are requested to comply with the following guidelines concerning the dress code.

For men, professional attire is the standard. Professional attire includes: suits, dress shirts with or without ties, collarless knit shirts with a jacket, sweaters, polo or golf-style shirts, dress slacks, khaki pants, dress or casual shoes. Professional attire does not include: t-shirts, jeans of any color, sneakers or tennis shoes.

For ladies, professional attire is the standard. Professional attire includes: dresses, pantsuits, skirts or dress slacks with jacket, vest, sweater, or coordinating top, dress or casual shoes. Professional attire does not include: dresses or skirts above knee length, revealing or low cut necklines and sleeveless styles, t-shirt sets, jeans of any color, tight fitting pants of any kind, bare midriff, sneakers or tennis shoes.

#### Employee-Student Relationships

Faculty and staff may date students only after consultation with their area administrators.

#### Lifestyle Standard

Southwestern is a church school, owned and operated by the eight districts of the Southwestern region of the Assemblies of God. All personnel involved on the campus including administration, faculty, staff, and students are subject to the ethical, moral, social, and spiritual standards of conduct approved by these Assemblies of God districts and agree to abide by those standards of conduct. Regular church attendance is expected of all employees.

These districts approve of and encourage behavior that is identified in the New Testament Scriptures as being God-fearing, Christ-honoring, and Holy Spirit-enabled. Employees are expected to exemplify Biblically Christian attitudes and to manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit in all personal and professional relations on or off the campus of Southwestern Assemblies of God University.

Southwestern and its owner districts do not approve of drinking alcoholic beverages, the use of tobacco in any form, the use of drugs or other controlled substances, other than for medicinal purposes. Immoral or amoral behavior, such as premarital or extramarital sexual relations, homosexual relations, use of pornography or sexually explicit materials in any form, attendance at dance clubs, gambling casinos, morally decadent music and movie productions, or similar activities are not approved.

These negative behaviors are listed only to advise the employee of some limits of activity that would adversely affect continuing employment at Southwestern Assemblies of God University. Employees are expected to sign a statement of agreement with these guidelines.

#### Spiritual Emphasis

Employment at Southwestern has many unique advantages. For the worker who has as a life objective the extension of the Kingdom of God, there is opportunity here for fulfillment. This is the supreme purpose for the existence of Southwestern. Employees who do not share this objective will be out of harmony at the University.