

Chapter V: SUMMARY OF THE 1999 ANNUAL UNIVERSITY MASTER PLAN AND ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

One of the enduring traditions at Truman State University has been its annual planning workshop held each summer. The workshop is open to the campus community and typically includes a review of current assessment data as well as an overview of issues that will constitute the institution's agenda for focused improvement during the coming academic year. As Truman has sought to implement its liberal arts and sciences mission, these planning workshops have assumed an important role in guiding the institution's development and ensuring the involvement of a broad cross-section of the academic community in the attainment of Truman's goals.

The 1999 Annual Planning and Assessment Workshop focused on a review of Truman's progress in the implementation of its University Master Plan, *Affirming the Promise*, by both President Jack Magruder and Vice President Garry Gordon. The two-day agenda also included discussions of the "First Sixty Hours," i.e., the freshmen and sophomore years at Truman, in the context of both value-added testing and the rigor of the curriculum from the student perspective. Presentations were also made regarding the role of critical thinking in the curriculum, the progress of the Residential Colleges Program, an update on the MAE program, and a review of the annual discipline action plans that must be developed by the faculty in each discipline. The theme of the workshop which clearly emerged as the presentations unfolded was the importance of fostering a strong sense of shared responsibility for institutional performance and outcomes among all members of Truman's academic community – faculty, staff, and students.