APPENDIX A

THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
The University of Massachusetts Boston Statement of Purpose

Our mission is to develop in Boston a great public urban university, which will preserve and extend in the best tradition of the Western world the domain of knowledge and nurture intellectual freedom and integrity, and with the kind of program, service and leadership given rural communities over the past century by the land-grant universities.

In so stating our objectives, we are responding to the conclusion reached at the Centennial observance of land-grant universities held in Kansas City in 1961, that is, that the state universities should henceforth concentrate on strengthening their programs in the liberal arts and sciences, and move into the cities for teaching, research, and service.

In carrying out these aims, we cannot overstress the need to build carefully and selectively for quality.

In providing young people equality of opportunity, we have an obligation to see that the opportunities we offer them are indeed equal to the best that private schools have to offer. Otherwise equality of opportunity means only that young people of limited means have equal access to something less than the best, and we perpetuate a class system of education.

No cluster of problems is more critical to our future as a civilization than the problems of the city. Only by plunging into the heart of mass technological, urban society can the university hope to prepare its students and faculty for the future, and to take a leading role in shaping that future. As urban problems mount, many of the city’s most able people flee to the suburbs and leave the oppressed, the weary, the overburdened to struggle alone. The urban university must stand with the city, must serve and lead where the battle is. This is what the University of Massachusetts at Boston must do.

We believe that the true, traditional purpose of a university can survive these demands. Only by responding to them can the old idea of the university as keeper, maker and teacher of knowledge and wisdom be saved in the 20th Century.

Presented by John F. Ryan on the occasion of his inauguration as the first chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Boston, December 10, 1966.