

World Network of Marist Institutions of Higher Education

Higher Education for the new millennium with the
charism of Marcellin

Antecedents

One of the agreements that emanated from the first international meeting of Marist IHE, held at Curitiba, (Brazil) in November 2004, was the formation of a Commission that would develop and present to the General Council and to the plenary session of the representatives of IHE at their second meeting, a proposal of the constitution of an entity or form of organisation of Marist World IHE.

This proposal tries to accomplish the mission recommended to it.

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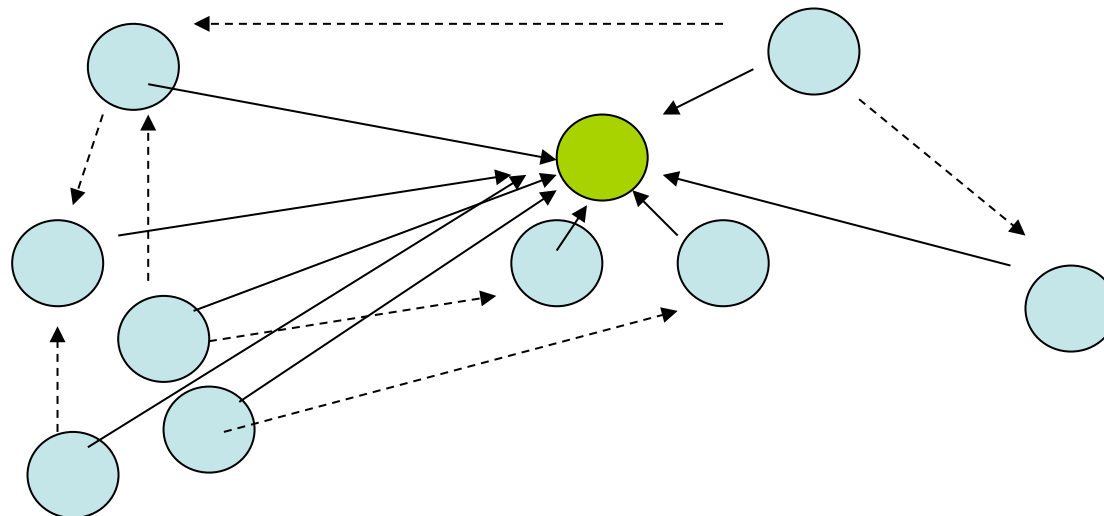
Why a Network of Marist IHE?

–Father Champagnat’s great desire and legacy is that we relate to each other and to the young people in our care as the members of a loving family would intuitively do. (In the footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat – A Vision of Marist Education Today 107).

The contemporary social dynamic is influenced by the geopolitical, technological and commercial changes that succeed one another globally in a vertiginous manner. The new challenges of Higher Education invite us to share our successes, to strengthen our weak points and to help us to give a better response to social expectations and to perfectly accomplish our Mission as Educator while Evangelising, united by our Marist identity and by the superior objectives of the Institute.

What is it?

- The World Network of Marist Institutions of Higher Education, is a web of works of the Shared Mission of brothers and laypeople who operate in different Provinces of the Institute. Each IHE is a node of the network, with multidirectional impulses in its inter-institutional communication, and uni-directional in relationship with a coordinator node of works and specific functions decided in a collective fashion.



Some main objectives

- To strengthen the knowledge and the collaboration among the Marist Institutes of Higher Education of the world.
- To exchange experiences and information which allows for the improvement of the process in the accomplishment of our Mission.
- To give rise to inter-institutional mobility, fortifying academic links and interdependent work which give possibilities to teachers and to students to have an international experience.
- To explore together the pertinence and the viability of the construction of the “Marist International University”.

How would it function?

- **A group of Universities operating in respective Provinces, with autonomy, but with the responsibility involved in the success of the Network and in the attainment of the Marist Educational Mission.**
- **With a simple structure, integrated and conducted by a Council of University Presidents who allow for the identification of spaces of opportunity and the co-ordination of joint works.**
- **Linked by a network of communication, supported on the Internet network and with the functioning of Blogs to maintain an on-going dialogue about common interest subjects and for the following up of works previously decreed by the Council of University Presidents.**
- **With biennial meetings of the Council of University Presidents to exchange experiences, things learnt and to combine resources in the obtaining of common intentions, and of superior aims of the Institute.**

Proposal of the Functions of the Council of University Presidents

- To identify the places of opportunity for the collaboration and reciprocal strengthening of the institutions that constitute the Network.
- To propose the agenda of priority subjects for the inter-institutional work of the Network, including the discussion of strategic common places of higher education.
- To define the suitability and the opportunity of the creation of inter-institutional work groups, in the light of the needs discovered during the work meetings of the Council of University Presidents.
- To maintain a permanent communication link with the General Council, to respond to the specific demands which help in the execution of superior objectives of the Institute.
- To meet once every two years, to exchange experiences, to propose subjects for discussion and to evaluate the results.
- To appoint to the Executive Committee of the Council of University Presidents, consisting of a Co-ordinator and 3 Councillors, (members), who follow up the accords of the Council and co-ordinate the preparation of meetings.

How would it function? (Cont.) Work groups

The work groups agreed to by the Council of University Presidents would be constituted by some representatives of IHE, in accord with the availability of human resources with the required profile for the works to be realised.

A few general points which could give some ideas to the work groups could be:

- a) Educational models and teaching development.
- b) Solidarity and Support to community Development.
- c) Investigation.
- d) Mobility and exchange.
- e) Marist University in Ministry.
- f) A Marist University without bounds.

How would it function? (Cont.)

- Each IHE would appoint a liaison-representative whose function would be to maintain an on-going contact with his or her peers, to keep his or her community informed on the works and their progress, and to organise the work tables to be realised in the international meetings.
- Among the members of each work group, a co-ordinator would be chosen whose functions would include the following up of agreements and the convocation to collective work. The co-ordinator would also have the mission of keeping the Executive Committee of the Council of University Presidents informed on the progress in the assigned works.
- The work groups would have a validity determined by the time required for the attaining of the objectives whose creation they are pursuing.

Normative setting

- **Each IHE would maintain its juridic form and its operational autonomy. When appropriate, we could explore other forms of organisation derived from the network, at national and international levels.**
- **It will be important to collaborate with the Bureau of International Solidarity of the Marist Brothers to unite the efforts in the education of the poorest. The common work with the Bureau, would also give access to organisms of the United Nations interested in the concern for young people and education.**