

Statement Of Opinion

Happy Knowledge Community For A Sustainable Future

The fact that I am writing this Statement of Opinion Letter to become a candidate for the presidency of Seoul National University comes as very overwhelming and emotional. Seoul National University has contributed greatly to the industrialization of Korean society and the establishment of democratization. However, the recent wave of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Fourth Industrial Revolution around the world suggests that Seoul National University should no longer settle for its past glory and present status. There have also been many generational changes in internal members of employees. In order to fulfill the mission of Seoul National University in the era of Big Conversion, there is a need for a transition to a system starting with happiness of members of the university and where the society and humanity linked to Seoul National University can enjoy a happy life.

Considering the social status and responsibilities of Seoul National University in a rapidly changing era, it is true that fear precedes when thinking about carrying out the presidency. But I am confident that our accumulated potential can turn new challenges into opportunities. I start this Statement Of Opinion by vowing to do my best to this end.

Education is the most important value of a university. Seoul National University's education is responsible for fostering and training key talents who will lead the Republic of Korea. We need to **support fundamental education to develop an eye for future society and strengthen practical education and active learning.** In addition, it is necessary to provide students with the opportunity to explore and experience various majors freely, and to develop the ability to solve new problems creatively through **convergence education beyond majors.**

Also, we need to respond to the demand for lifelong education and retraining where alumni or outsiders can learn new majors or skills regardless of age, and **Open Universities** that develop through Industry-Academic Cooperation Foundation should also be prepared.

Research is a key competency to secure the external status of universities. Seoul National University must now **transform itself from pursuit to “overtaking of world-leading research”** based on its accumulated capabilities. In order to achieve this convergence, we need to improve our research support system to maximize our individual research capabilities and **solve global complex challenges** such as climate change and

sustainable growth to meet the expectations of the people and build Seoul National University's international reputation and brand. To achieve this international recognition, [Seoul National University should pay more attention to developing with the world](#) through multi-campus internationalization, strengthening international organizational activities, and expanding international cooperation.

[Governance innovation and financial security of universities are essential](#) to achieve a major shift in education and research, which are core competencies of universities. The autonomy of colleges considering academic characteristics should be respected, but leadership in planning, coordination, and support of the university headquarters is also needed. It is necessary to [establish optimal governance](#) so that each college can contribute to the development of the university in its own way. As universities transform into an efficient administrative organization, they should actively support their individual employee's capabilities to adapt to these changes, and create an environment where all members can work autonomously and happily.

[Securing new finances is essential](#) for the transition of all these capabilities. To achieve university financial independence, you should not rely solely on government contributions. With various measures to secure financial resources, it is necessary to [raise 1 trillion won in development funds and secure financial resources through institutional investment of more than 1 trillion won and long-term industrial-academic cooperation](#). The attraction of external investment can be expanded because I have experience in creating an SNU Engineering Fund with a technology holding company at Seoul National University when I was a dean of engineering. [The Development Fund](#) can also be further activated by improving the method of fundraising and inducing voluntary donations by utilizing my experience as the chairman of the Seoul National University of Technology Development Fund.

If new finances are secured and governance systems are improved, [we can invest a lot in the welfare environment in the university](#). First of all, we cannot force only "passionate devotion" on educators who are immersed in the nation's highest education and research, so we should make every effort to [improve the treatment of educators to a reasonable level](#). It is necessary to improve the residential conditions of faculty and students and to significantly expand the benefits of health checkups. And we need to build a people-centered [eco-friendly campus](#) and [connect with the community](#).

[Strong leadership and practical skills are needed](#) to realize all the things I explained above. I can confidently say from the experience of receiving 50 billion KRW from founding CEO of Daeduck Electronics, Kim Jung Shik, as a donation to build the Haedong Center for Advanced AI Research while serving as a dean of engineering for

the past four years, I have learned the know-how of receiving a large amount of development funds. And at the center of the controversy over the relocation of the Gwanak Campus of the Nursing College, based on communication and empathy as the dean of the College of Engineering, I was able to help the headquarters and the nursing school to reach a satisfactory relocation agreement. In addition, I visited each department of engineering and persuaded them to significantly expand the employment of female educators and contributed to wide-area recruitment of 46 individuals. On top of that, a start-up incubation system was established to promote and support the entrepreneurship of undergraduate students, and new undergraduate lectures such as AI were established by introducing a new teaching method of Flipped Learning. I think this series of achievements was possible with strong leadership and practicality based on expertise, supremacy, and innovation.

I will strictly accept [Seoul National University's social responsibility to shift from *pursuit to leading era*](#) to meet the expectations of the people and the world, and devote all my experience and capabilities to [create a happy atmosphere where all members of the university can do meaningful things and enjoy at the same time](#). Thank you.

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Applicant : Char Kook Heon

**Address to Chairman of Presidential Recommendation Committee,
Seoul National University**