

Summary of the Planned Testimony of
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My testimony will concern the exploring the implications of rapidly evolving information technology for the future of the American research university. Today our society and our social institutions are being reshaped by the rapid advances in information technology—computers, telecommunications, and networks. These rapidly evolving technologies are dramatically changing the way we collect, manipulate, and transmit information. They change the relationship between people and knowledge. And they are likely to reshape in profound ways knowledge-based institutions such as the research university. While this technology has the capacity to enhance and enrich teaching and scholarship, it also poses certain threats to the university. We can now use powerful computers and networks to deliver educational services to anyone, anyplace, anytime, no longer confined to the campus or the academic schedule. Technology is creating an open learning environment in which the student has evolved into an active learner and consumer of educational services, stimulating the growth of powerful market forces that could dramatically reshape the higher education enterprise. My testimony will consider the transforming influence of information technology on the activities of the research university, on its character and organization, and on the broader nature of the higher education enterprise.