



MARQUETTE
UNIVERSITY

Be The Difference.

Marquette University
Student Government

Alumni Memorial Union, 133
P.O. Box 1881
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-1881

P 414.288.7416
W musg.mu.edu

Memorandum

To: Dr. Margaret Callahan
Interim Provost

Dr. L. Christopher Miller
Vice President for Student Affairs

From: Kyle Whelton
Legislative Vice President
Marquette University Student Government
(414) 288-5199
musg.senate@marquette.edu

Date: December 6, 2013

Re: A Recommendation Regarding Transparency on Gender and Sexuality

On December 5, 2013, the Marquette University Student Government Senate passed a recommendation for increased transparency in decisions regarding programs pertaining to gender and sexuality. The Senate also calls on the University to work further with the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center to address the needs of all Marquette students.

Attached is a summary and copy of the legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

CC: Dr. Susannah Bartlow, Ph.D., Director of the Gender and Sexuality
Resource Center
Samuel Schultz, MUSG President
Dr. Jon Dooley, Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean of Student Development
Kate Trevey, Assistant Dean for Leadership and Vocation Programs
Matt Lengen, Coordinator for Student Organizations and Leadership

Senate

2012 - 2013

Summary of Legislation

Recommendation #6

Authors: Senator Natasha Hansen, Senator Mary McCarthy

Sponsors: Senator Peter Setter, Senator Aliya Manjee

Senate Committee: Student Life

Action of the MUSG Senate: Approved by Vote of 29-2-1

Senate Rationale: The MUSG Senate believes strongly that the University must be more transparent when deliberating on programs pertaining to gender and sexuality. Following the MUSG Gender and Sexuality survey, the Senate concluded the University failed to provide students with enough information about their reasoning for revoking FemSex. It is the majority view of the Senate that discussions pertaining to gender and sexuality on campus ought to be done in an open manner and in way that is consistent with Catholic, Jesuit values. Thus, when a program comes forth that is not consistent with these values, the University should be transparent in its reasoning for rejecting the program and work to provide a suitable alternative.

Action of MUSG Legislative Vice President Kyle Whelton



Date: 12/6/13

Action of MUSG President Samuel Schultz



Date: 12-6-13

Recommendation #6

A Recommendation Regarding Transparency on Gender and Sexuality

Author(s): Senator Hansen, Senator McCarthy

Sponsor(s): Senator Setter, Senator Manjee

Whereas: It is the role of Marquette University Student Government (MUSG) to actively identify, understand, address and represent students' needs, concerns and interests; and,

Whereas: The University Administration revoked the FemSex program's sponsorship in both the Spring and Fall of 2013; and,

Whereas: In the fall of 2013 MUSG administered a student gender and sexuality survey;¹ and,

Whereas: 81% of students surveyed who had responded they have heard of FemSex believed they did not have enough information about or were dissatisfied with the University's decision to revoke the program;² and,

Whereas: While the majority of students surveyed are satisfied or indifferent concerning the resources available on issues of gender and sexuality as well as Marquette's openness to discuss such issues, there is still a concerning 15% of students who are mostly and/or very dissatisfied with Marquette's openness to discuss issues of gender and sexuality and 11% are mostly and/or very dissatisfied with the gender and sexuality resources currently available;³ and,

Whereas: The Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (GRSC) was opened by the University in the Fall of 2012 to, "provide a space dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, dialogue, growth and empowerment around issues of gender and sexuality;"⁴ and;

Therefore: In order to actively address the students' concern and need for discussion of gender and sexuality, let it be recommended the University increase the transparency of the policies and decisions concerning the available options for

¹ MUSG Fall 2013 Student Gender and Sexuality Survey Executive Summary

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ <http://www.marquette.edu/gender-resources/index.shtml>