

Recommendation #1

Establishment of a Global Ecology Major

Author(s): Senator Wallace, Senator McCarthy, and Senator Lambert

Sponsor(s): Senator Steiner

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 Marquette University Vision Statement states "We must reach beyond traditional academic boundaries and embrace new and collaborative methods of teaching, learning, research and service¹;" and,

Whereas: The highest authority of the Society of Jesus, the General Congregation 35, convened to address the ecological and environmental challenges our world faces through the development of the document "Healing a Broken World;" and,

Whereas: The document "Healing a Broken World" states that Jesuit higher education institutions should "develop curricula that address sustainability issues and impart a certain level of environmental literacy²;" and,

Whereas: Numerous comparable Jesuit universities, including Georgetown University, Loyola University-Chicago, and Creighton University, offer degrees in relation to environmental and sustainability studies; and,

Whereas: The establishment of an Interdisciplinary Major in Global Ecology has gained considerable faculty and student support including many members of the student organization, Students for an Environmentally Active Campus (SEAC); and,

Whereas: Nearly 50 students have expressed their interest in the Global Ecology Major through the Weebly website, which is a resource used to poll students interest in the new major; and,

Whereas: The Global Ecology major is an interdisciplinary study; combining courses in business, engineering, political sciences, economics, ecology, physics, calculus, philosophy, theology, , and other disciplines resulting in a high appeal to a diverse population of students; and,

Therefore: Let it be recommended that the Biological Sciences Department, the Dean of the College Arts and Sciences, University Administration, and the University Board of Undergraduate Studies to work to establish the Interdisciplinary Major in Global Ecology in a timely and transparent manner with student representation; and,

Furthermore: The University should work to establish this major with special consideration of potential costs and in the most cost effective manner.

¹ Marquette University Vision Statement; <http://www.marquette.edu/about/mission.shtml>

² Healing a Broken World Document, recommendation 4, section 3, page 46