

ASLMU Senate

Resolution SR 21-02

Resolution on Ending the Use of Herbicides on Campus

Authored by: Senators at Large Drew Hartz and Ava Raymond

I. WHEREAS, in August of 2021, Loyola Marymount University contracted the company Pest Options to apply the chemicals Rodeo, Sandea, Vaquero, and Specticle.¹ One active ingredient of the synthetic herbicide Rodeo was recognized by the World Health Organization as a probable carcinogen that may cause health issues including kidney disease, shortened pregnancies, and endocrine disruption.

II. WHEREAS, the spraying of herbicides not only threatens human health but endangers pollinator health and can negatively impact marine life via surface runoff contamination.

III. WHEREAS, the use of glyphosate and other synthetic herbicides have recently come under legal scrutiny within the greater California area for their cancer-causing effects. As a result of legal pressures and environmental activism, Los Angeles County and Marin County have moved to prohibit the use of the herbicide Roundup. Meanwhile, cities such as Irvine, Carlsbad, Malibu, and San Juan Capistrano have committed to adopting an all-organic land management policy in the public arena.

IV. WHEREAS, other universities across the country, such as the University of California system, have banned the use of glyphosate on all 10 campuses. Other successful herbicide-free campuses include Harvard University, the University of Colorado at Boulder, Yale University, and sister Jesuit institution, Seattle University. Other institutions in the same position as Loyola Marymount University, currently working with the coalition Herbicide-Free Campuses, include Emory University, Brandeis University, Indiana University Bloomington, Grinnell College, and Sarah Lawrence College.²

V. WHEREAS, after the Facilities Management Team informed Herbicide-Free Loyola Marymount University that they would suspend the use of synthetic herbicides during the pandemic and to not use them in the future, the university continued to spray them on campus.

VI. WHEREAS, Loyola Marymount University, as a Jesuit institution, values a commitment to service and justice by being socially responsible citizens committed to building a more just world; a commitment to become a global citizen by valuing the diversity of the human experience and making meaningful contributions as citizens of the global community; and a commitment to live a life of purpose by meeting the world's greatest needs.³ Loyola Marymount University is rooted in a Jesuit identity that claims to foster students who “engage their community and embody the philosophy of “Magis,” meaning “to be more for the greater good.”⁴

VII. WHEREAS, as a top ranked Catholic institution, Loyola Marymount University, must uphold the Catholic Social Teaching principle “Care for God’s Creation” that is rooted in our Sacred Scriptures and the priorities set out for Catholic communities globally by Pope Francis in his encyclical letter Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home.

¹ https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/make-lmu-herbicide-free?source=direct_link&

² <https://www.herbicidefreecampus.org/campaignsbylocation>

³ <https://studentaffairs.lmu.edu/about/studentexp/thefivepillars/>

⁴ <https://admission.lmu.edu/about/jesuitidentity/>

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VIII. *WHEREAS*, the Loyola Marymount University administration emphasizes “creating the world we want to live in” and “being people for and with others.” In the recently published 2021-2026 Strategic Plan, the administration lays out a plan including to “deepen our commitment to sustainability and environmental justice.”⁵

IX. *THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that the Associated Students of Loyola Marymount University calls on Loyola Marymount University, in collaboration with Herbicide-Free Loyola Marymount University, to pledge to no longer use synthetic herbicides.

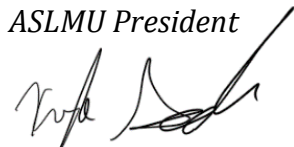
X. *THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that the Associated Students of Loyola Marymount University call for the administration to support Facilities Management in providing accessible maps of where herbicides are utilized on campus, the associated health effects of each herbicide, and to post QR codes around campus where herbicides are used that illustrate a digital map of herbicide usage across campus.

XI. *THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that the Associated Students of Loyola Marymount University hopes, in conjunction with Herbicide-Free Loyola Marymount University and the university, that we can find safer and healthier alternatives to synthetic herbicides to care for our community’s health and preserve the beauty of our campus.

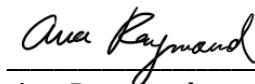
XII. *THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED* that the Associated Students of Loyola Marymount University calls upon the university to continue to be a leader in environmental justice by establishing an herbicide-free campus that is unwavering in its support for sustainability.



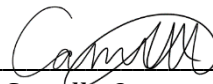
Brion Dennis
ASLMU President



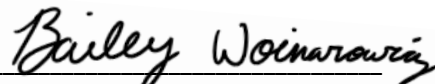
Kyle Saavedra
Attorney General



Ava Raymond
Senator at Large



Camille Orozco
ASLMU Executive Vice President



Bailey Woinarowicz
Speaker of the Senate



Drew Hartz
Senator at Large

⁵ <https://resources.lmu.edu/strategicplan2021-2026/theprocess/proposal/>