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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSG SENATE VOTES ON RECREATIONAL FACILITIES LEGISLATION

MILWAUKEE – Oct. 30, 2009 – The recreational facilities on campus were the main topic of discussion at the Marquette University Student Government Senate meeting held on Oct. 29.

At the meeting, the Senate voted on Recommendation #1-“Addressing Students’ Health and Wellness,” a proposal to improve the recreational facilities on campus. Though the proposed legislation was met with debate, all agreed improvements to the recreational facilities are a huge area of concern for the Marquette University community and action has to be taken.

Recommendation #1-“Addressing Students’ Health and Wellness,” authored by Senators Giuseppe Pappardo; Alexandra Engler; Hope Frank; Meghan Gorman; Emil Ovbiagele; Nick Fanelli and PPT Trent Carlson, presented the main issues surrounding the current state of the campus’ recreational facilities. In general, the proposed legislation addressed the issues of time, space and aesthetic appeal.

Though the Senate was in agreement that the recreational facilities on campus are in need of improvement, many took issue with the wording of the proposed legislation.

“As representatives of the student body, the goal is to build a new center on campus,” said Arts & Sciences Senator Joseph Ciccone. “The recommendation, however, doesn’t lead the administration down that path. Nowhere in the recommendation does it state that students want a new Rec Center.”

Overall, those Senators in disagreement felt the proposed legislation was not strong enough to pass. After much discussion, Recommendation #1 failed with a vote of 15-14.

According to Recommendation #1, over 70 percent of students use the recreational facilities, especially the Halfaer Recreational Center, at least three times a week. However, there have been no substantial improvements made to the Rec Center within the last 40 years. Also, although Marquette University has the most club sports of any Jesuit school, only 35 percent of club sports facility needs are met.

The administration has recently proposed several short-term solutions, such as expanding the hours of the recreational facilities. The authors of the legislation emphasized that this type of short-term solution would, in actuality, not help solve the problem. Since the majority of people frequent the recreational facilities between 3 p.m.-8 p.m., with only 2 percent going between 8 p.m.-10 p.m., lengthening the hours would be of little help to Marquette University students.

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Add 1 – Rec Center

“At this time, the Rec Center is out of Band-aid approaches,” said Arts & Sciences Senator Giuseppe Pappardo. “There is the need for a more overarching and fundamental change in the Rec Center. The objective of the legislation is to build momentum towards a long-term solution.”

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The Marquette University Student Government was developed in 1882 as the governing body of the Marquette community. Its goal is to identify, understand, actively address and represent students' needs, concerns, and interests through acts of leadership and service which reflect Catholic, Jesuit ideals and contribute to the betterment of the Marquette University community.

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