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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOP UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS ADDRESS CONCERNS AT FR. WILD FORUM

MILWAUKEE – Oct. 28, 2009 –Topics ranged from financial aid to climate change at the bi-annual Fr. Wild Forum, held on Oct. 27, providing insight on important issues on campus.

Marquette University President Robert A. Wild, S.J., Senior Vice President Greg Kleibhan and Provost John J. Pauly, Ph.D. took questions from concerned students and faculty members, in what proved to be an informative discussion for the entire Marquette University community.

With the recent controversy over WellPoint CEO Angela Braly’s visit to campus, one group of students questioned the panel over the decision to invite Braly to speak at Marquette. Braly’s visit was met with dismay, since many students felt her actions at WellPoint were not in keeping with the university’s overall mission.

“[Braly] works in an area where intense discussion is going on nationally,” said Wild. “We exist to provide a forum for precisely these discussions.”

The panel explained they were aware of the many complaints, and also emphasized that Braly’s views in no way reflect the views of the university.

“You should listen to [Braly] because you don’t agree with her,” said Pauly. “It is an opportunity to learn.”

Due to the current state of the economy, the panel was asked whether there are any plans to increase financial aid. Though financial aid is increased every year, the panel agreed that it is never enough.

“There is a definite gap between what students can do to receive financial aid and the actual amount of financial aid received,” said Wild.

Those students whose financial situation has recently changed are encouraged to speak with the Office of Financial Aid.

One student presented a question relating to the sexual violence policies on campus. President Wild, S.J. acknowledged that sexual violence is clearly a problem at the university, but the administration has very clearly defined policies. Wild also emphasized the connection between sexual violence and alcohol.

“Alcohol is at the center of the problem,” said Wild. “Almost every incident of date rape involves alcohol.”

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Representatives from V.O.I.C.E., the only group on campus specifically geared toward sexual violence, sought advice from the university officials in regards to what they could do to help solve the problem. The panel stressed the importance of making sexual violence issues more visible to the administration. Kliebhan suggested Crime Prevention Officer, Sue Cooper, as a resource for any sexual violence concerns.

Other topics discussed at the forum included D2L requirements for professors, course evaluations, social change, Student Health Services improvements and funding for student organizations on campus.

For more information on MUSG's news and events, visit <http://musg.mu.edu> or contact the MUSG office, AMU 133.

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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