

Referendum #1
Care for Academic Needs of Students

- Authors: Senators Shazia Ali, John Kristan, Thaddeus McGuire, Adam Michael Tandez and Henry Thomas
- Sponsors: Senators Bill Doerrler, Mikey Barreras, Stephanie Stopka, Molly Wells, and Nicole Gates
- Whereas: It is Marquette University Student Government’s mission to identify, understand, actively address and represent students’ needs, concerns, and interests; and,
- Whereas: Currently there is no independent, confidential, and impartial outlet for students to voice academic and personal disputes with Marquette University faculty; and,
- Whereas: An ombuds is defined as a confidential, impartial, and independent entity whose goal is to “ensure that fair processes are in place and that everyone has access to them”¹; and,
- Whereas: The current ombuds’ mission at Marquette University is “to provide a confidential, neutral and informal resource to facilitate resolutions to workplace concerns of faculty and staff”²; and,
- Whereas: Marquette University created the Office of the Ombuds in 2002 to give “concrete expression to its care for the person, its quest for organizational excellence, and its commitment to justice and fairness”³; and,
- Whereas: Students do not have access to this service; and,
- Whereas: Competing Jesuit universities, such as Saint Louis University and Xavier University, currently have an ombuds that aids students in solving academic problems; and,
- Whereas: Marquette University lacks an ombuds who resolves students’ academic concerns, and demonstrates care and concern for the students’ academic needs.
- Therefore: Let it be resolved that the following question be placed on the March 25, 2009 MUSG General Election Ballot:
- “Should Marquette University expand the role of the Office of the Ombuds to include confidential and impartial outlets for students’ academic concerns?”
- Furthermore: Let the description of the question to be placed on the ballot read as follows:
- “Marquette University created the Office of the Ombuds in 2002 to give “concrete expression to its care for the person, its quest for organizational excellence, and its commitment to justice and fairness.” The current ombuds’ mission at Marquette University is “to provide a confidential, neutral and informal resource to facilitate resolutions to workplace concerns of faculty and staff.” An ombuds is defined as a confidential, impartial, and independent student resource whose goal is to ensure that fair processes are in place and that everyone has access to them.”

¹ <http://www.marquette.edu/ombuds/ombuds.shtml>
² <http://www.marquette.edu/ombuds/mission.shtml>
³ <http://www.marquette.edu/ombuds/index.shtml>