Resolution for the Formation of a Committee on Environmental Responsibility

Whereas Haverford College is a community founded on Quaker values of trust and respect,

Whereas these values extend to the natural world and formed an integral part of the Founding Fathers’ vision for the school,

Whereas Haverford College is a privileged institution and consequently has the resources and, moreover, the responsibility, to enact socially and environmentally responsible policies,

We the students resolve that Haverford College as an institution will work towards a sustainable and ecologically sound future. To this end, we agree that a diverse committee composed of faculty, staff, students, administration, and other Haverford Community members shall be formed to help facilitate the College's transition to more ecologically sound modes of operation.

The Committee, CER Goals and Responsibilities

The CER

The Committee on Environmental Responsibility (CER) will be composed of four Haverford College students, two Haverford College staff members, two Haverford College faculty members, one Haverford College administrator and one Haverford College community member.

The CER’s four student members will be appointed by Students’ Council. These students, once appointed, will recommend to the President of the College a list of names to fulfill the remaining positions. The President shall take the list under advisement as (s)he invites or appoints the staff, administration, and community member positions. Additionally, the appointed students shall contact the Provost or other appropriate faculty administrator who will invite faculty to volunteer for the faculty positions.

Vision and Goals

We the authors strongly recommend, that for the CER to be effective, the committee will formulate a Haverford College Green Plan by the end of the 2001 academic year. The Green Plan will be a set of overarching principals that delineate the committee’s definition of “greenness.” These principles will be taken into consideration during campus additions, purchasing, and related decisions. We encourage the committee to work to align current College practice and policy with the ideals contained in the Green Plan.

To this end, we the authors recommend that the CER, with the Green Plan as a reference and in tandem with academic, administrative departments and student groups, will investigate areas in current management practice that could be improved, then recommend policy changes.
We the authors strongly encourage that College management practices associated with water issues, waste management and recycling, energy consumption, campus ecology and land use shall be addressed. However, should other unforeseen issues arise, they may take precedence.

We also encourage the CER to serve as a liaison to bodies such as the Property Committee and the Long Range Planning Committee, and to work to integrate the principals of the Green Plan into future college decisions.

Responsibilities

The CER will draft an open letter to the President twice a semester reporting on proceedings of the committee, current projects and future goals. The letter will be released coinciding with the end of both quarter-long and semester-long classes. The letter will be delivered to the President for the attention and consideration of the campus community, including students, faculty, staff, and the Board of Managers.

Respectfully submitted,

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Background of the Resolution:

The community of Haverford College is only a small part of a larger community that must absorb the effects of Haverford College's actions. As long as the College employs natural resources and produces waste, we must seek to minimize our impact through environmentally sound, but economically feasible, policies.

While some policies to this effect are in place in some departments, there exists no unified institutional environmental mission statement, nor a body to carry this out. As coordinated efforts by the College can curb the environmental footprint of the community better than the isolated acts of individuals, the CER will serve to facilitate environmental improvements to the College.

Summary of the Resolution:

To move Haverford College towards adopting more environmentally friendly policies, and, through these policies, to establish the College as a leader among environmentally sound institutions in sustainable management practices. This resolution creates a Committee on Environmental Responsibility consisting of four students, two faculty, two staff, one administrator and one Haverford College community member.