



# Rockhurst University

## STUDENT SENATE

### FINAL BILL No. SB 2016-201

Date approved: 10/12/2016

Sponsored by: Beverly Ziegler, Social Justice Committee

#### A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR TRADE INITIATIVE AT ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY

**WHEREAS,** The Rockhurst University Student Senate strives to exemplify the words of Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J. found on the Rockhurst bell tower: “You are called by the Society of Jesus to be men and women who reflect upon the reality of the world around you with all its ambiguities, opportunities, and challenges, to discern what is really happening in your life and in the lives of others, to find God there and to discover where God is calling you, to employ criteria for significant choices that reflect Godly values rather than narrow, exclusive self-interest, to make decisions in the light of what is truly for the greater glory of God and the service of those in need, and then to act accordingly;”

**WHEREAS,** The Rockhurst University Student Senate strives to “stimulate and promote support among students for policies beneficial to their interests” and to “uphold the ideals and values of the Catholic Jesuit tradition through learning, leadership, and service” by promoting the Jesuit Core Values;

**WHEREAS,** The core value of *Cura Personalis* (Care for the Whole Person) calls us “To help people. To understand their inherent human dignity. To reach their greatest human potential. To share their experience and knowledge with others;”

**WHEREAS,** The core value of Reflection and Discernment calls us “To reflect our own lived experience of the world and to listen to the experience of other people;”

**WHEREAS,** The core value of Wisdom calls us “To examine the moral and ethical implications present in each discipline and program;”

**WHEREAS,** The core value of Magis calls us “To find more purposeful and effective ways to carry out our work;”

**WHEREAS,** The core value of Contemplation in Action calls us “To be agents of transformation especially in the areas of social justice and equality;”

**WHEREAS,** What we choose to purchase, eat, and drink impacts farmers, workers, artisans and the environment;



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**WHEREAS,** Growers of coffee, tea, chocolate and other products produced around the world are often paid less than a living wage, and forced child labor may be involved;

**WHEREAS,** Conventional means of growing coffee and other commodities are often damaging to the environment, harming local ecosystems;

**WHEREAS,** Fair Trade ensures fair wages, safe working conditions, and environmental sustainability, and prohibits forced labor of any kind;

**WHEREAS,** Many campus groups around the country and the world, including six Jesuit Universities, already support Fair Trade;

**WHEREAS,** By becoming a Fair Trade University, Rockhurst University will demonstrate a commitment to sustainability;

**WHEREAS,** By becoming a Fair Trade University, Rockhurst University will more effectively educate the campus community about Fair Trade;

**WHEREAS,** By becoming a Fair Trade University, Rockhurst University will inspire other institutions and organizations to support Fair Trade.

**WHEREAS,** By becoming a Fair Trade University, Rockhurst University will enhance its image as a leader in sustainability and social justice issues;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Rockhurst University Student Senate hereby supports Fair Trade and should dedicate itself to that cause by the following:

1. Dining facilities: Rockhurst University will work with its food service contractor to make Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, and other Fair Trade products available in its dining facilities, consistent with the terms of food service contracts and where the resulting costs do not significantly jeopardize board rate costs.

2. Catered events: Rockhurst University will work with its food service contractor to make Fair Trade products available at catered meetings hosted by the school, consistent with the terms of the food service contract.

3. Offices: Rockhurst University will work with its food service contractor and/or office supplier to make Fair Trade products available for administrative and faculty offices whenever possible and consistent with the terms of existing contracts.



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4. Stores: Rockhurst University will include Fair Trade food products, apparel and handicrafts in campus stores whenever possible and subject to the terms of vendor contracts.
5. Education: Rockhurst University will support students, staff, and faculty working to increase on-campus awareness of Fair Trade through events, the incorporation of Fair Trade into curricula, and other efforts.
6. Procurement: Rockhurst University commits itself to exploring the incorporation of Fair Trade procurement into current purchasing practices and policies. This process will begin within six months after the ratification of this document.
7. Acknowledgment: Rockhurst University will identify and promote Fair Trade products at campus functions and stores with appropriate signage or information.
8. Implementation: Rockhurst University, in consultation with the RU Fair Trade Initiative and the Student Senate, will oversee the implementation of the above commitments.

*Thomas B. Curran, S.J.*

Rev. Thomas Curran, S.J.  
President, Rockhurst University

*Zachary Pohlman*

Zachary Pohlman  
Student Senate President

*Theresa Bergman*

Theresa Bergman  
Student Senate Vice President

Veto