

**B F2020.12**

**An Amendment to Chapter Eleven of the Bylaws Adding Environmental Justice as a focus of the Taking Responsibility For the Earth and Environment Subcommittee**

*A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government*

September 29, 2020

Sponsored by: Tim Dalrymple, Natalie Simmons, Anna Colvin, Katy Kulie, Eric Hsieh, Ross Neuman

**Whereas**, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;<sup>1</sup> and,

**Whereas**, LSA SG utilizes its Bylaws to structure and facilitate official business and recognizes the need for amendments to the Bylaws to improve its function and reflect current practices; and,

**Whereas**, the mission of LSA SG Taking Responsibility for the Earth and Environment Subcommittee (hereafter TREES) is to “actively work to improve the lives of LSA students outside of the academic sphere by promoting the culture of sustainability and advocating for environmental awareness”;<sup>2</sup> and,

**Whereas**, sustainability is an intersectional issue that pervades all spheres of social, political, and economic activities; and,

**Whereas**, while environmental issues are detrimental to the health and well-being of all individuals at the University of Michigan (hereafter the University) and all across the globe, many environmental and public health issues disproportionately affect low-income communities and people of color;<sup>3</sup> and,

**Whereas**, the United States Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national

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<sup>1</sup> The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

<sup>2</sup> The Official LSA SG Bylaws. Purpose of Taking Responsibility for Earth and the Environment subcommittee Purpose 11.03.00

<sup>3</sup> Dorceta E. Taylor. Toxic Communities, 2014.

origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies”;<sup>4</sup> and,

**Whereas**, the stated purposes of both LSA SG and TREES are to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**Be it therefore resolved**, Chapter 11 of the Bylaws will be amended to incorporate environmental justice as part of the purpose of TREES; and,

**Be it further resolved**, the leadership and membership of TREES be made aware of environmental justice issues and consider their importance in government business; and,

**Be it further resolved**, that the Bylaws be amended in accordance with the language in Appendix A; and,

**Be it finally resolved**, LSA SG shall adhere to these Bylaw amendments, and they shall take effect immediately.

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<sup>4</sup> Environmental Protection Agency. Environmental Justice. <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>

## Appendix A

### Chapter 11

#### **Taking Responsibility for the Earth and Environment Subcommittee**

11.03.00 **Purpose.** The Taking Responsibility for the Earth and Environment Subcommittee of the Student Life Committee (referred to herein as the Subcommittee or TREES) shall actively work to improve the lives of LSA students outside of the academic sphere by promoting ~~the~~ **a** culture of sustainability, *environmental justice*, and ~~advocating for~~ environmental awareness.