

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED TO FACULTY SENATE XIII, February 15, 1990.

Whereas

International environmental threats such as rainforest destruction, ozone depletion, global warming, toxic waste hazards and ocean pollution are the results of human choices.

These environmental perils endanger the survival of all species, including the human species.

Earth Day 1990 has organized an impressive coalition of more than 1000 organizations, universities, and governments in more than 120 countries designed to mobilize citizens to place the environment on the front of the public policy agenda and to promote public awareness of what can be done for the environment at the local and personal level.

President George Bush signed into law a joint congressional resolution officially recognizing April 22, 1990, as Earth Day and proclaiming the 1990's the decade of the environment.

The universities are the intellectual and educational centers of our civilization and thus bear responsibility for helping our people confront this major crisis with full awareness of what is at stake.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT

Faculty Senate XIII of Western Kentucky University joins Congress and the President in recognizing Earth Day 1990, April 22, 1990.

The Senate urges President Meredith and the Board of Regents to join in this recognition on behalf of Western Kentucky University.

The Senate encourages all faculty at Western Kentucky University to participate in this event in some way, appropriate to the disciplines they teach, in their classes during the week preceding or the week following Earth Day. [See attached for some suggestions in keeping with the Earth Day spirit.]

The Senate encourages other segments of the university community to sponsor or support additional activities aimed at fostering environmentally sustainable practices at every level of society.

Some formats faculty may wish to adopt for their participation in Earth Day activity

* a environment-related unit, which fits into the flow of the course and is timed to coincide with the peak of Earth Day activities.

* a lecture, in the week preceding or following Earth Day, relating the discipline or the instructor's specialty to environmental concerns.

* a more or less free discussion, coordinated by the professor in the week preceding or following Earth Day, concerning how students as consumers or citizens can help reverse threats to the environment.

* a discussion, timed for the week prior to or following Earth Day, of how members of the profession for which students in the course are preparing themselves can help reverse threats to the environment.

* a writing assignment around an environmental theme, such as what the environment could be like in the year 2000, or 2050, if environmentally sound policies are adopted quickly.

Some (Mere) Suggestions for Possible Lecture or Discussion Topics

What We Can All Do NOW to Lower Our Environmental Impact
Short-Term Steps for Businesses to Lower Their Environmental Impact
Industrial *Perestroika* to Preserve the Earth
The Environmental Responsibilities of [*supply the appropriate profession*]
International Justice and Saving the Rainforest (or Toxic Waste Export, or Ozone Depletion, or . . .)
Local Citizen Action for the Environment
Integrating Environmental Education into the Public School Curriculum
Sustainable Agriculture
Physical (or Biological, or . . .) Principles Essential to for Informed Environmental Citizenship
Reverence for the Environment in [*supply your art form*]
Human Environmental Impact in [*supply your historical period or geographical specialty*]
The Humanities as Environmentally Sustainable Human Practices
Principles of Environmental Ethics
Principles of Environmental Law
Stewardship in Judaeo-Christian Theology
Respect for Nature in Native American Religions
Environmental Externalities in Economic Theory

Earth Day 1990 has a list of 50 project ideas many of which would be appropriate for students.