I. MISSION

The Environment Program offers Loyola students the opportunity to engage in a broad and integrated study of the environment from a variety of academic viewpoints. This interdisciplinary program includes a wide spectrum of courses from various colleges and departments and focuses on understanding the relationships between humans and the natural world from biological, physical, chemical, sociological, economic, cultural, philosophical, and religious perspectives. In addition to presenting an introduction to major global and regional environmental issues facing the planet today, the program attempts to develop in students the kinds of knowledge, wisdom, and problem-solving skills that will enable them to play an active role in understanding our global and regional ecosystems and contributing to their future well-being.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES.

The Environment Committee shall promote and administer the Environment Program at Loyola University New Orleans. It shall encourage a campus-wide awareness of environmental issues in the spirit of the Jesuit tradition.

The Committee’s principle function is oversight and development of Environment majors and the Environmental Studies minor within the Environment Program. To this end, the Committee shall meet approximately monthly during the academic year with a minimum of six meetings.

The Committee shall report to the Provost and the Dean of the College of Humanities and Natural Sciences.

III. COMPOSITION.

The Director of the Environment Program serves as chair of the Committee. The Director is elected to serve a three year term and may be reelected to serve multiple terms. The Committee may also elect a vice-chair. If the Director is unable to complete a term, then a new election will be held. The Director may be recalled by a simple majority of regular members comprising the Committee (see section IV, below).

Faculty directly involved in the Environment Program may be regular or associate members. To become a regular member, an individual must be nominated by a member of the Committee,
elected by a simple majority of the Committee, and approved by the Provost. The Administrative Assistant may be a regular member.

All faculty interested in the Program are invited to attend Committee meetings. The Director, however, may exclude non-members from attending confidential portions of a Committee meeting.

Criteria for Regular and Associate Faculty Membership

Adjunct, Extraordinary, or Ordinary faculty or the Administrative Assistant may be nominated for regular membership. The number of Ordinary faculty, however, shall comprise at least a simple majority of the regular members. The Committee shall seek to achieve and maintain a composition representative of the Colleges and Departments providing courses incorporated within the Program.

All members of the Loyola faculty are invited to teach courses in the Environment Program. The Committee welcomes course proposals from all faculty interested in contributing to, and supporting, this Program. Interested faculty are encouraged to review the curriculum (posted on the Environment website) as well as both the Mission and the Learning Objectives contained within this Protocol in order to propose courses which expand and enrich Program offerings. A written course proposal should be submitted to the Chair of the Committee. After the Chair has received a proposal, the faculty member submitting the proposal will be invited to a meeting so that the Committee may discuss the course with him or her and discern whether it is a good fit for the Program. The Committee hopes that other Loyola faculty members will consider offering courses in the Program to ensure that the Environment curriculum is richly diverse, open to a range of thoughtful perspectives, and attentive to the contributions offered by every field and discipline.

Only faculty who are currently teaching an approved ENVA minor or Major Core/Concentration course or who have taught one within the preceding three semesters are eligible for nomination as regular faculty members.

All faculty nominees for regular membership must be willing and able to teach approved ENVA courses at least once in a two year period, attend at least 2/3 of the scheduled ENVA meetings per academic year excluding sabbatical or academic leave, and take on Program work responsibilities (including serving on Program subcommittees).

As a corollary, if a regular faculty member is unable to meet the aforementioned expectations for teaching, attendance, and Program work (excluding cases of academic leave or sabbatical), then he or she can no longer serve as a regular member, but may elect to participate as an associate member.

All associate members shall be those who have served as regular members, but are no longer able either to teach, attend meetings, or engage in Program work as described above in the
expectations for regular membership. Associate members may request items to be placed on the agenda and receive both the agenda and the documents discussed during ENVA meetings. Associate members may attend meetings, serve on subcommittees, and participate in the discussions of agenda items. An associate member may subsequently be renominated for regular membership by a regular member of the committee.

IV. VOTING AND ATTENDANCE.

The Environment Program Committee consists of regular and associate members, including the Director. The Director is a regular member. Only regular members are voting members of the Committee. Regular members may vote by proxy, but the proxy must be given, either in electronic form or hard copy, to another regular member who attends the meeting.

A quorum for a meeting is a simple majority of the regular membership. Proxies shall not count towards the quorum. A simple majority is sufficient to pass a measure by vote, except in the case of revisions to this protocol, recall of the Director, major or minor curriculum changes, and the approval of courses for the Program. These measures shall require an affirmative ballot cast by at least 3/4 of the regular members who are voting (while present or by proxy).

Robert’s Rules of Order (or a working interpretation of same) are ordinarily to be followed in meetings, but these rules may be suspended if ¾ of the regular faculty present vote in favor of doing so.

When the Committee decides it is needed, there will be a secret ballot for critical decisions such as election of a Director, election of committee members, deciding whether to include a course in the major or minor, making significant changes in the curriculum, or amending the protocol.

The Committee may have on-line discussions and, in special cases, cast votes electronically. When the committee decides it is needed, an electronic mechanism for secret balloting shall be used. An electronic process of voting must be approved, however, by a prior vote in a face to face meeting, unless there is an on-line affirmative ballot cast by at least ¾ of the regular members (excluding those on leave or sabbatical) in favor of an electronic voting process.

Any proposed amendments to this protocol must be presented for discussion at a Committee meeting prior to the meeting at which a vote on the issue is to take place.

Only regular faculty members may vote on curricular issues including course approval.
Minutes will be taken at each meeting and approved by vote at a subsequent meeting. The minutes will take note of those in attendance, any absences of regular members, and any use of proxies.

V. ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM COURSES AND HONORS DEGREE

A) Criteria for the Approval and Review of Concentration Courses for the Major or Courses for the Minor

1) The Environment Program Committee welcomes, encourages, and solicits proposals for courses to be included in both its major and minor programs. Courses approved for the Major or Minor, however, must meet the learning objectives of the Program. (See appendix one). As a corollary, any course whose content is incompatible with, or does not serve, these objectives will not be approved.

2) If a proposed course is not approved, the Committee will endeavor to make constructive suggestions regarding its content that, if incorporated, would make the proposal likely to be approved upon resubmission. Conversely, a course may be approved conditionally, with the understanding that some refinements will be made before it is taught as an Environment Program course.

3) At least half of the content of the course must bear on the learning objectives of the Program; differently stated, at the least half of the course content must address environmental topics in a way that serves the Program objectives.

4) As noted in section IV above, in order for a course to be approved, at least ¾ of the regular members balloting must vote in favor of its approval.

5) The Committee will review course offerings periodically to see that they conform to the Learning Objectives of the Program.

B) Environment Program Honors

Students majoring in Environmental Studies or Environmental Science may earn departmental, or Program, honors by completing all departmental and university academic requirements; maintaining a GPA of at least 3.0 in both their major coursework and overall; completing six credit hours of research credit (ENVA A498) with a grade of A; completing a substantive and original research thesis or body of creative work; and presenting their scholarly findings to the university community or at an approved scholarly conference. Each honors student must form a thesis committee consisting of his or her research mentor and at least one other member of the Environment Program. This committee will approve a research proposal and review the final thesis to ensure that it meets appropriate academic and ethical standards.
VI. MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES.

The Director is responsible for hiring faculty and staff, overseeing the curriculum and class scheduling, determining transfer and alternate course credits towards the major or minor, supervising the Senior Experience, assigning majors and minors to academic advisors, managing the budget, overseeing library holdings, promoting the Environment Program, and communicating the needs of the Environment Program to the colleges and university.

In order to support and expand the Environment major and minor, the Director shall, in consultation with the Committee and pertinent Department Chairs, recruit ordinary, extraordinary, and adjunct faculty to teach Program courses. If and when a tenure-track search is initiated by the Program, this Protocol shall be amended in order to detail the process to be followed.

It is expected that regular members will take on responsibilities to facilitate Committee function. These responsibilities may include: subcommittee work, Program course assessment, publicity, events coordination, advising, event sponsoring, or curricular development.
APPENDIX 1: Learning Objectives of the Environment Program

Majors in Environmental Science (BS) will be able to:

- Recognize environmental problems as existing across the margins of scientific, political, and humanistic discourse, amenable best to interdisciplinary comprehension.

- Articulate how concepts and terms such as "environment," "ecology," and "nature" function in cultural, historical, literary, philosophical, and religious texts.

- Understand the seriousness of our contemporary global environmental problems through an examination of their history, causes, socio-environmental impacts, and potential policy/behavioral solutions.

- Think critically and objectively about global issues and be able to evaluate different claims about the environment with credible scientific data.

- Understand that environmental problems are, by their causes and impacts, inherently social problems, with deeper roots in economic and political structures, cultural values and beliefs, technologies, and systems of inequality.

- Develop responsibility, as well as a system of social and environmental values, that will enable them to practice a way of life that will contribute to a more sustainable planet.

- Demonstrate thorough competence in understanding the structure and function of biological ecosystems and ecology.

- Demonstrate a fundamental competence in understanding the ecological factors affecting the management of the environment and biological ecosystems.

- Demonstrate a fundamental competence in understanding quantitative and qualitative research methods as applied to questions related to the natural environment.

- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication necessary to construct, evaluate, and present solutions to environmental problems.

- Understand the challenges and expectations of environmental careers in environmental science, applied ecology, natural resource management and conservation.

- Demonstrate the knowledge, skills and qualifications necessary for acceptance and success in graduate programs in Ecology, Environmental Science or Natural Resources.
Majors in Environmental Studies (BA) will be able to:

- Recognize environmental problems as existing across the margins of scientific, political, and humanistic discourse, amenable best to interdisciplinary comprehension.

- Articulate how concepts and terms such as "environment," "ecology," and "nature" function in cultural, historical, literary, philosophical, and religious texts.

- Understand the seriousness of our contemporary global environmental problems through an examination of their history, causes, socio-environmental impacts, and potential policy/behavioral solutions.

- Think critically and objectively about global issues and be able to evaluate different claims about the environment with credible scientific data.

- Understand that environmental problems are, by their causes and impacts, inherently social problems, with deeper roots in economic and political structures, cultural values and beliefs, technologies, and systems of inequality.

- Develop responsibility, as well as a system of social and environmental values, that will enable them to practice a way of life that will contribute to a more sustainable planet.

- Demonstrate fundamental competence in understanding the structure and function of biological ecosystems and ecology.

- Demonstrate fundamental competence in understanding quantitative and qualitative research methods as applied to questions related to the environment.

- Demonstrate effective oral and written communication necessary to construct, evaluate, and present solutions to environmental problems.

- Understand the challenges and expectations of environmental careers in planning, business, non-profits, law administration, communications and/or sustainability.

- Demonstrate the knowledge, skills and qualifications necessary for acceptance and success in graduate/professional programs in Environmental Studies, Environmental Law/Policy, Environmental Communications, Sustainable Development or similar environmental disciplines.