



COUNCIL OF COMMONWEALTH STUDENT GOVERNMENTS
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
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C.R. 22.23.24

Asynchronous Instruction on Election Day

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Sponsors:

- Whereas,** *The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) represents the concerns of the students attending the campus in matters of a University-wide nature,*
- Whereas,** *In recent years of student advocacy amongst the student government organizations at The Pennsylvania State University, promoting civic engagement has been consistently brought to the forefront of our focus by students and faculty alike at the state, local, and federal levels.*
- Whereas,** *the student body can commit to this civic engagement by expressing their voting rights as eligible United States citizens and voting during the date known as “Election Day” every November.*
- Whereas,** *there are unintentionally prohibitive circumstances in place as a student and faculty member of the University related to the scheduling of class times conflicting with the times to vote during “Election Day.” A study conducted by the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning & Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University in September of 2022 revealed that voters from the ages of 18 to 24 years old in the state of Pennsylvania are 3% behind in voter registration numbers compared to data from 2018*. Specifically, within the 18- to 19-year-old voters, engagement was down 21% compared to data from 2018*. It was estimated that in 2021, only 54% of eligible voters aged 18-29 in Pennsylvania voted*. This value compared to other neighboring states such as New Jersey at 67% shows a large margin of lowered voter turnout. * Conflicts in scheduling are reported as one of the primary causes of lowered voter participation in this study.*
- Whereas,** *based on these facts presented, there should be time allotted for students and faculty as part of the University’s academic calendar to eliminate the growing problem of decreased student voting.*

Whereas, *in making this decision, students would have more control in the political environment that heavily influences the funding available to students through current legislations and affects the future of funding allocation for public schools across the Pennsylvania Commonwealth. As a state funded school, appropriations towards the University are essential for creating an affordable education and promoting a consistent quality education for a constantly expanding academic institution with changing needs.*

Whereas, *there is acknowledgement of Policy 42-27 currently in place through University Faculty Senate calling for the opportunity for students to be excused and make up missed work for participating in elections with a statement from the student explaining their absence prior to then. However, this policy does not appropriately consider the additional workload on students for makeup work alongside other courses that have varying levels of material to be completed. Students should not be in a position where they must decide between academics and expressing their constitutional right.*

Be it resolved; *The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments supports the inclusion of a fully asynchronous day of instruction during the Tuesday after the first Monday of every November known as “Election Day.” During this day, faculty can conduct their classes asynchronously without in-person instruction. In circumstances where a course has a shortened length in the semester or is part of an accelerated program in which a class constitutes for a week’s worth of learning, a synchronous online meeting can take place during the class’s regularly scheduled time. Exams or other high grade percentage assignments should not be scheduled or due for this day.*

Respectfully,

Jacob Levendosky

Council Action

Vote ____:____:____ Pass: ____ Fail: ____ Postponed: ____

Presidential Action

Approved: ____ Veto: ____ Date:

*Booth, Ruby Belle. "Youth Voter Registration Has Surpassed 2018 Levels in Many States, but It's Lagging for the Youngest Voters." *Circle at Tufts*, Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, 14 Sept. 2022, <https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/youth-voter-registration-has-surpassed-2018-levels-many-states-its-lagging-youngest>.