

A Resolution to Urge The Ohio State University to Allow Students to Attend Any Lecture or Recitation Virtually on November 5, 2024

George Bernard (for himself) introduced the following resolution to the Governmental Relations Committee where it passed. Then, to the Steering Committee where it passed, and to the floor where it passed/failed.

* * *

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University; and

Whereas on November 5th, 2024, federal elections will occur to elect the President of The United States, a Senator from Ohio; and

Whereas as an institution of higher education, The Ohio State University has a duty to promote and facilitate civic engagement; and

Whereas for many students, the requirement that they physically attend classes on election day poses a significant barrier to voting; and

Whereas during the 2016 election, half of college students said they did not vote due to a lack of time or conflict on Election Day;¹ and

Whereas students and instructors have years of experience of learning and teaching in synchronous and asynchronous digital environments without a significant loss of learning; and

Whereas it is recognized that labs are hard to simulate in a virtual learning environment therefore students ought to attend labs in person; and

Whereas The University of Cincinnati, American University, Stanford University, and dozens of other universities have implemented policies to allow students to be absent from classes or attend them virtually on Election Day;² and

¹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/civication/2020/10/27/election-day-on-college-campuses-not-a-day-off-a-day-on/?sh=79fa8013214f>

² <https://www.dayondemocracy.org/map>

Whereas during the 2020 election, The Ohio State University permitted employees to work as poll workers and receive up to eight hours of pay during their absence;³ and

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government is dedicated towards promoting civic engagement and removing barriers to voting; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government calls on The Ohio State University to allow students to attend lectures and recitations in a synchronous or asynchronous digital format on November 5th, 2024.

Floor Vote: Aye: ____ Nay: ____ Abstain: ____ Present: ____

Bobby McAlpine
President

Alex Poling
Speaker of the 56th General Assembly

Date Adopted: _____

Date Terminated: _____

³ <https://hr.osu.edu/news/2020/09/25/election-day-public-service-for-ohio-state-employees/>