

Resolution: Asking the University of Baltimore to allow for flexibility on assignments and class attendance on November 3, 2020, so students can have easier access to engage with the democratic process in the 2020 National and Local Elections

Introduced by: Senator Jose Martinez, Senator Randolph Wells

Sponsored by: Senator Jose Martinez, Senator Randolph Wells

Written by: Senator Jose Martinez, Senator Randolph Wells, Chief of Staff Amadou Bah, Vice President Kevin McHugh, Secretary April King, and President Daniel Khoshkepazi

WHEREAS: SGA recognize the importance of fair and free elections with high participation as part of the democratic process,

WHEREAS: On Tuesday, November 3, 2020, is both Election Day and a scheduled class day for the Fall 2020 academic calendar;

WHEREAS: There are voter suppression efforts in the 2020 United States election seeking to undermine the voting rights of minority groups in America led by white supremacists,

WHEREAS: The University of Baltimore serves a student population that is designated minority background, and such accommodations would allow students to be part of the democratic process,

WHEREAS: The University of Baltimore and its student population has had a history of high voter turnout for which we have been recognized nationally by the ALL CAMPUS DEMOCRACY CHALLENGE,

WHEREAS: The University of Baltimore takes pride in its high voting turn out among students, and we need to make sure we continue this great work,

WHEREAS: Mandatory class attendance or assignments due on this day can infringe on students' ability to vote in the election or serve in roles such as election judges,

WHEREAS: The Student Government Association is interested in making it easier for students to participate in the democratic process this year despite challenges put forward by the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to suppress voting among minority groups,

WHEREAS: Faculty at Frostburg University has already made a recommendation for election day accommodations at their campus, and we need to pursue similar measures to make sure our students have more accessible ways to engage with the democratic process without being penalized academically.

WHEREAS, The University of Baltimore has a 70.9% voting rate in 2016, according to a report from the [NSLVE](#). While it is one of the country's highest participation rates, it is paramount that the SGA promotes an environment in which every student has the opportunity to vote.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE ENACTED:

SECTION 1: The University of Baltimore SGA recommends faculty to consider alternative assignments instead of a scheduled class meeting on November 3, 2020,

SECTION 2: The University of Baltimore SGA recommends faculty to avoid or accommodate a backup date for significant assignments, exams, presentations, etc. on November 3, 2020,

SECTION 3: The University of Baltimore SGA recommends that no major campus-wide events take place that day in terms of involvement and take measures to motivate our students to engage in the process instead,

SECTION 4: The University of Baltimore SGA will share this resolution with the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, GSC, Provost Anderson, and President Schmoke to make it easier for students to vote and engage with the democratic process the upcoming election.

Date introduced: October 20, 2020

Date passed: October 20, 2020

Speaker of Senate Joseph Ha

Joseph Ha

(signature)

Vice President Kevin McHugh

Kevin McHugh

(signature)

President Daniel Khoshkepazi

Daniel Khoshkepazi

(signature)

From: Michael B Mathias <mbmathias@frostburg.edu>
Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 1:42 PM
To: AAAC <aaac@usmd.edu>
Subject: Election Messaging

Fellow Provosts,

At last week's AAAC meeting, Nancy Shapiro inquired about our institutional messaging related to Election Day. I'm sharing below the language that FSU's Faculty Senate and Provost's Office agreed on. This will be passed as a resolution at an upcoming Senate meeting and then released to the campus jointly by the Senate and Provost's Office:

Whereas the FSU Faculty recognize the importance of fair and free elections with high participation as part of the democratic process; and

Whereas Tuesday, November 3, 2020 is both Election Day and a scheduled class day for the Fall 2020 academic calendar; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that instructors are encouraged to make it easier for their students to perform their civic duty through voting or working as election judges by taking one or more of the following actions as is reasonable for their course(s):

- Being flexible with students regarding attendance and due dates on November 3, 2020;
- Considering alternative assignments instead of a scheduled class meeting on November 3, 2020;
- Holding class meetings virtually instead of in person on November 3, 2020; or
- Avoiding major assignments, exams, presentations, etc. on November 3, 2020.

Cheers,

Mike

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