



Resolution Number:	W-20-02	Sponsored By:	President Eric-John Szczepaniak Vice President Joel Pagel Senator William Thayer Senator Sam Jacobs
Introduced On:	23 January 2019		
Voted On:	30 January 2019		
Result:			
Vote Count:			

A RESOLUTION TO: Endorse the Michigan Collegiate Student Advisory Task Force Report and Recommendations Including, But Not Limited To, Supporting Additional Transportation Efforts, Campus Scheduling, Registration During Orientation, and Civic Syllabi Language.

Recognizing, Grand Valley State University encourages students to be active citizens as an integral part of the mission of GVSU to “educate students to shape their lives, their professions, and their societies”¹; and

Recognizing, students hold an additional responsibility of encouraging civic education amongst their peers; and

Recognizing, Student Senate and our University partners are in a unique position to help inform the student body about civic engagement; and

Whereas, Student Senate believes that an institutionalized, continuous commitment to civic education by student leaders and University partners can achieve high rates of political participation and live into the mission of the University; and

Recognizing, the University has received many accolades for its commitment to civic engagement; and

Recognizing, the Michigan Collegiate Student Advisory Task Force Report and Recommendations establish supplementals for the University to bolster its proactive approach to civic engagement; and

Whereas, the following recommendations pulled from the CSATF report should be implemented by the University:

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“University transport: Many universities have bus lines that provide transportation to-and-from campus for off-campus or near-campus students. Adding a stop to these routes at local clerk offices and polling locations on Election Day would provide students easier access to voting and registration services. Students should be made aware of added stops to campus bus-routes, and the route changes should be highly publicized by the university. This service should be free.

¹ <https://www.gvsu.edu/housing/employment/grand-valley-mission-statement-5.htm>

“Ride share transport: Ride-share companies like Lyft and Uber have offered free or discounted transport to polling locations on Election Day. Universities and colleges should advertise these services to students. Furthermore, colleges and universities should coordinate with local taxi-services to offer similarly discounted transportation to students.

“Campus scheduling: Exams and large assignments scheduled during the week of an election may be a voting deterrent for students. Discouraging these scheduling conflicts will ensure that students have ample time to visit the polls and/or register to vote. If possible, the academic calendar should be modified to not hold classes on Election Day, or faculty should be instructed to make attendance optional.”

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“Registration during orientation: Colleges and universities should integrate voter registration into new and transfer student orientation, as well as every semester “sign up” or “check in” facilitated by the university.

Syllabi: Class syllabus should include standard information on voter registration, including voting and poll worker recruitment information.”

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Whereas, Student Senate believes that dates for upcoming Michigan election dates should be spelled out in syllabi and broadcast widely by the University; and

Recognizing, these recommendations are not an exhaustive list and Student Senate welcomes constructive conversation to address future issues that may arise;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, endorses the aforementioned findings of the Michigan Collegiate Student Advisory Task Force and asks for implementation of said measures at Grand Valley State University.