

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF AN ASYNCHRONOUS ELECTION DAY

WHEREAS, While 74% of UC students registered to vote in the 2018 Midterm elections, only 59% of UC students turned out to vote, and individual campuses had alarmingly-lower rates, such as UC Merced, with a 34% overall turnout rate.¹

WHEREAS, While 68% of UC students registered to vote during the 2016 Presidential elections, only 50% of UC students turned out to vote.²

WHEREAS, The UC has recognized barriers to voting for UC employees, and in compliance with Election Code Section 14000 (a), provides up to two hours of paid time off for employees on Election Day to cast their ballots.

WHEREAS, students have no protections to vote, and commuting students experience even greater difficulty finding time to vote.³

WHEREAS, Institutional support for time-off to vote and nonpartisan voter registration efforts have been found to be the most effective strategy to improve student civic engagement and voter turnout.^{4 5}

WHEREAS, Having time in the day to go vote is critical for voter participation amongst college students and faculty.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Office of the Chancellor convenes a committee to be composed of 2 representatives from USAC, 1 representative from the Academic Senate, and 1 representative from the the Office of the Chancellor to discuss and put forth a recommendation to the UCLA Registrar no later than January 1st, 2023 for the implementation of an asynchronous instruction day on Election Day of every academic calendar beginning on the 2023-2024 academic year.

¹ UC IRAP Student Voting and Political Climate Topic Brief

² <https://ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/files/ug-voter-participation-at-uc>

³ Newman, B. J., Johnson, J., & Lown, P. L. (2014). The “Daily Grind”: Work, Commuting, and Their Impact on Political Participation. *American Politics Research*, 42(1), 141–170. Accessed November 15, 2021, from

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1532673X13498265>

⁴

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/civication/2020/10/27/young-adults-need-time-off-to-vote-the-onus-falls-on-companies-and-schools/?sh=681b851e2709>

⁵ <https://iop.harvard.edu/spring-2018-poll>

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the USAC supports calling on UCLA to implement *Asynchronous Election Day* is to be effective beginning the following academic year (2023-2024), to be observed on Tuesday, November 7th, 2023.