UNIVERSITY OF MAINE STUDENT GOVERNMENT, INC. GENERAL STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION "VOTER INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE ACT"

Date: 10-01-2025 Resolution #: 46S-POL-110-10-07-2025

- **AN ACT TO:** Establish the Voter Involvement and Education Committee as a Special Committee within the General Student Senate
- WHEREAS, voting rates among Generation Z remain lower than those in older age groups, as, according to a study done by Tufts University, 47% of eligible Generation Z voters participated in the 2024 Presidential Election and only 28% in the 2022 midterm elections; and
- WHEREAS, the Political Activism Committee has, in the past, had a largely insignificant and undefined role and scope within the General Student Senate; and
- WHEREAS, the Voter Involvement and Education Committee (VIEC) has the ability to be a critical resource among the student body, helping them understand and participate effectively in government and in the voting process.
- **RESOLVED,** the Voter Involvement and Education Committee shall be responsible for serving as an active resource for students on campus to learn more about the United States government and the voting process in a comprehensive, non-partisan manner.
- **RESOLVED**, that the Voter Involvement and Education committee shall remain non-partisan, in conjunction with the University of Maine Student Government's mission and tax policies.
- **RESOLVED**, it shall be the responsibility of the committee chair to maintain the nonpartisanship of the committee. Should the committee chair breach this nonpartisanship, it shall be resolved through the Vice President of Student Government.
- **RESOLVED**, the chair of the Voter Involvement and Education committee shall be responsible for maintaining a relationship with the Political Science department chair and other necessary professors, to collaborate on sections of the website as the chair deems appropriate, events, and the University of Maine UVote program; and
- **RESOLVED,** the Voter Involvement and Education Committee shall be chaired by a sitting Senator or Representative, and membership will remain open to any University of Maine undergraduate student. Voting members will be defined at the discretion of the committee chair.
- **RESOLVED,** it shall be the responsibility of the Voter Involvement and Education Committee to:

- 1. Work to establish and maintain relationships with the student body through polls, tabling and other outreach to complete the goals of this committee.
- 2. Maintain relationships with the Political Science Department as deemed appropriate by the committee chair, to work on committee projects and to plan any desired collaborative events.
- 3. Continue to work with the Chair of the University of Maine UVote program in such capacity as is desired by the General Student Senate and the aforementioned individual.
- 4. Address any student concerns, wants, or needs regarding voter involvement, education, and all other relevant information to the committee.
- 5. Assist in educating and updating the student body on important issues, dates, opportunities, changes in relevant information, and other information as deemed necessary by the committee chair.
- 6. Maintain contact with the recognized political groups on campus
- 7. Any other tasks as directed by the General Student Senate.

RESOLVED, upon passage of this document, the Political Activism Committee shall be dissolved and the Voter Involvement and Education Committee shall be chaired by the current chair of the Political Activism Committee until the next Senate term.

AUTHOR(S): SPONSOR(S):

Senator Collamore Senator Chapin

COMMITTEE:

Policy and Procedure

RECOMMENDATION:

(5-0-2) OTP

SENATE VOTE:

[PASSED/PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS/FAILED]

SIGNATURE:

resident, University of Maine General Student Senate

SIGNATURE:

President, University of Maure Student Government, Inc.