

PASSED 11-25-2025

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE STUDENT GOVERNMENT, INC.**  
**GENERAL STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION**  
***"URGE FOR IMPROVED COMMUNICATION AND STUDENT INVOLVEMENT"***

**Date: 11-24-2025**

**Resolution #: 46S-POL-153-20-2025**

**AN ACT TO:** Urge the Office of the President, and all other University of Maine administrative offices and officials to strengthen transparency, communication practices, and structured student involvement in institutional decisions that directly affect student life, academic programs, cultural resources, facilities, and campus operations.

**WHEREAS**, the University of Maine is a public institution committed to serving its students and student input is an essential element of effective shared governance, campus planning, and institutional decision-making; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous university decisions in recent years, including but not limited to space reallocations, program relocations, facility changes, academic structure updates, and policy adjustments, have been communicated to students only after decisions were finalized or in late stages of development, prompting concerns about the timeliness, transparency, and inclusiveness of such communications; and

**WHEREAS**, several of these decisions have had direct and substantial impacts on student programs, cultural centers, academic facilities, research resources, and campus organizations, yet many affected students and student groups were not consulted during the planning phases; and

**WHEREAS**, the recent appointment of students to various Presidential Committees represents a meaningful first step toward enhancing student participation in university governance. However, these committees are primarily designed to provide broad, overarching input on long-term institutional matters and may not fully address the need for timely, targeted student consultation on specific issues. Establishing additional mechanisms for direct, situation-specific student involvement, particularly in decisions affecting individual facilities, academic programs, cultural centers, or operational changes, would help ensure that decisions reflect the perspectives of those most directly impacted; and

**WHEREAS**, improved transparency and structured avenues for student participation would support stronger institutional trust, more effective implementation of university initiatives, and better alignment between administrative decisions and student needs; and

**WHEREAS**, students, student-led organizations, and campus stakeholders have expressed interest in more consistent opportunities for participation in discussions about campus facilities, academic restructuring, cultural and identity-based spaces, and other significant

matters; and

**WHEREAS**, this issue of communication is procedural, and can be constructively addressed through improved systems, communication channels, and expectations of early engagement.

**RESOLVED**, the University of Maine Student Government urges the President, Provost, Director of Facilities Management, Vice President for Finance and Administration, Director of Space and Capital Management, and other relevant administrators to implement strengthened transparency measures for major university decisions; and

**RESOLVED**, UMSG further urges the University to adopt a standard practice of early-stage student engagement such as through forums, advisory meetings, or stakeholder consultations prior to finalizing decisions that substantially affect student life, academic programs, or campus facilities; and

**RESOLVED**, UMSG encourages the administration to develop or expand communication systems capable of providing timely, accessible, and clear updates to the student body regarding major planning efforts, proposed transitions, and relevant timelines; and

**RESOLVED**, UMSG affirms its willingness to participate in these efforts and support the creation of long-term, sustainable structures for shared communication and decision-making processes across campus.

AUTHOR:	<b>Vice President Shelmerdine</b>
SPONSOR:	<b>President Tripp</b>
COMMITTEE:	<b>Policy and Procedure</b>
RECOMMENDATION:	<b>[5-0-1] OTP</b>
SENATE VOTE:	<b>[PASSED/PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS/FAILED]</b>

SIGNATURE:



**President, University of Maine General Student Senate**

SIGNATURE:



**President, University of Maine Student Government, Inc.**