



RUSA Resolution: S17-1

Authors: Christopher Markosian, Julieline Serrano, Viktor Krapivin

Sponsor: Academic Affairs

Resolution to Urge the Rutgers University Senate to Declare all United States Presidential Election Days as a University Holidays

Whereas, according to Statistics Brain analysis of data obtained from the Electoral College, Associated Press, and U.S. Census Bureau, only 58.5 percent of eligible voters between the ages of 18 and 24 voted. There were numerous reasons as to why eligible voters did not cast their vote; this includes being too busy or having a conflicting schedule (17.5 percent), being out of town (8.8 percent), and the inconvenience of the polling place (2.7 percent); and

Whereas, several universities in the United States did not hold classes during the 2016 Election Day; university and student body presidents from these schools have provided testimonials to the benefits associated with the Holiday; and

Whereas, the University academic calendar can be adjusted accordingly to have Election Day as a University Holiday while maintaining a seven-day final examination period, at least one reading day, and the addition of an academic day with a Tuesday schedule in Fall 2020, Fall 2024, and Fall 2028; and

Whereas, a survey regarding the 2016 Election Day was filled out by approximately 500 students from Rutgers University. The results of the survey show that about 95 percent of participants would be more likely to vote if no classes were in session during U.S. Presidential Election Day.

Be it hereby resolved, the Rutgers University Student Assembly supports the amendment to the Academic Calendar in which every fourth year the United States Presidential Election shall be deemed a University Holiday in which no classes shall be in session; and

Be it hereby resolved, the Rutgers University Student Assembly endorses this report and the

recommendations made in this report; and

Be it hereby resolved, the Rutgers University Student Assembly urges the Rutgers University Senate to investigate the issues raised in this report; and

Be it hereby resolved, the Rutgers University Student Assembly encourages the Senate to designate all Presidential Election Days as University holidays.