

# The Ohio State University Council on Enrollment and Student Progress Trial Asynchronous Learning and Civic Engagement Day, Election Day November 5, 2024

**Synopsis:** Students initiated a request for the Council on Enrollment and Student Progress (CESP) to address supporting students having Election Day 2024 (Tuesday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>) as a day free from classes so they can vote in person in their home communities and/or serve as election volunteers. CESP studied the feasibility of several options to modify the academic calendar and engaged in an extensive process of consultation with student government (USG, CGS and IPC), and university bodies including OAA, the Registrar's office, the Office of Student Life, and Faculty Council. This process took place during the 2022-2023 academic year, and through the current academic year. In response to strong student government (USG, CGS and IPC) support for no election day classes in 2024, CESP affirmed its support for this in April 2023. Finding an alternative day for Election Day classes poses logistical challenges; consultation on how to implement this continued through Fall 2023 with input from students, faculty, and university leadership. While it is not logistically feasible to implement a policy of no classes on Election Day 2024, having an asynchronous learning day on Election Day 2024 would meet the spirit of the students' request without the negative impact of requiring any further changes to the academic calendar. On January 11, 2024, CESP shared information about this proposal with Faculty Council and received input from this body. On January 16, 2024, CESP collaboratively constructed resolution language and voted unanimously to pass this resolution. This outcome was shared at the Senate Steering meeting on January 18, 2024, receiving positive feedback and support.

**Whereas** our Undergraduate Student Government, Council of Graduate Students, and Inter-Professional Council have requested and strongly support Election Day being a day free from classes on the university calendar, and

**Whereas** these student bodies noted the importance of exercising their fundamental rights to vote and engage fully in civic engagement and community involvement, and

**Whereas** changing the university calendar to cancel classes on Election Day 2024 is not a feasible option, and

**Whereas** an asynchronous<sup>1</sup> learning day will allow students the flexibility to vote in-person and volunteer for civic duties on Election Day 2024, and

**Whereas** some courses have compelling educational purposes to be exempted from asynchronous learning, such as labs and clinical classes that require in-person meetings to comply with accreditation or other compliance requirements, and

**Whereas** approving asynchronous classes on Election Day for a one-time trial allows us to collect data and study the impact of this change in 2024 before any proposal to make this change in subsequent years, and

**Whereas** the Council on Enrollment and Student Progress (CESP) voted unanimously to approve this resolution,

**Therefore, Let It Be Resolved:** that the University Senate requests that the Provost develop procedures for university-wide asynchronous classes in the academic calendar on Nov. 5th, 2024 as a one-time trial on Election Day. Lab and clinical classes may be exempted when necessary for compliance certification and other compelling educational purposes. This would not apply to OSU academic units that already provide an Election Day holiday.

*Respectfully submitted on behalf of CESP:*

- Yvonne Goddard, Associate Professor, Educational Studies and Chair, CESP
- Daniel Thompson, Professor, Mathematics and Chair, CESP Student Success Subcommittee

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<sup>1</sup> Definition of Asynchronous Learning:

Following Policy 6.15 (Weather or Other Short-Term Closing), “Faculty who normally teach in-person classes must, at the beginning of the term, notify their student whether they intend to use alternative teaching methods when classes are canceled, which could include but are not limited to the using , webcasts, podcasts, email, supplemental readings etc.” (<https://hr.osu.edu/wp-content/uploads/policy615-faq.pdf> p. 4).

Per Ohio State Online: “Asynchronous learning allows you to **learn on your own schedule**, within a certain timeframe. You can access and complete lectures, readings, homework and other learning materials at any time...” (<https://online.osu.edu/resources/learn/whats-difference-between-asynchronous-and-synchronous-learning>)