



UA Recommendations:

Voter Engagement Initiative

47th Session

2019 - 2020

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BACKGROUND

Overview

Voter registration has always been an important subject to Penn Leads the Vote, the Undergraduate Assembly, and even Penn student and faculty. Kyong, Schenk, and Liu are teaming up with PLTV to advocate for tabling registering during NSO. More specifically, they plan to open up tables right next to the PennCard event at Houston Hall where freshmen come pick up their PennCards for the first time. Across Penn there has been a general push to increase sensitivity training for all faculty across departments. Issues of racial, gender, and income insensitivity by faculty members have repeatedly been brought forward to the Undergraduate Assembly over the past year. The lack of faculty diversity in departments has also contributed to students' concerns in the classroom. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to create a more inclusive environment on campus for all students and faculty.

Current Status & UA Updates

The Voting Team is currently awaiting a callback from Troy Majnerick, Associate Director of Academic Initiatives for NSO. We are planning to meet with Troy, Dawn Maglicco Deitch (Executive Director of Office of Government and Community Affairs), Harrison Feinman, and Alisa Ghura (both PLTV members) to further pursue this initiative. Currently, the Office of Government and Community Affairs hosts a voter registration event during NSO at the Student Services Expo, but the event does not gain enough recognition for it to make a major impact. Unfortunately, PLTV finds themselves often separated and placed in another room during the event, never fully recognized nor capable of truly getting as many voter engagements as they can.

UA RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations & Proposal

The Undergraduate Assembly recommends the following in order to address faculty sensitivity and create a more inclusive campus:

1. Expand voter registration opportunities to Penn freshmen in both PennCard events and Campus Housing events
2. Continue to support PLTV and the UA in enhancing voter registration
3. Enhance voter civic engagement to all members of the community and provide as many opportunities for students to have optimal opportunities to obtain their civic duty by registering to vote!

PLTV and the UA will continue to lobby for any initiative that provides further voter registration opportunities especially with the 2020 Election coming soon. We intend for our voter engagement initiatives to become a long-term tradition at Penn that occurs every year regardless of whether there is a presidential election occurring or not.
