

*Southern Oregon University
Voter Registration, Education, and Turnout
Access and Institutionalization Policy
February 2008*

I. Background

During Oregon's 2007 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 951 was passed. The bill instructed each of the institutions of postsecondary education listed in ORS 352.002 to consult with their recognized student governments in order to adopt a plan which would increase student voter registration and voting in elections.

II. Purpose

The following plan will ensure that the goal of Senate Bill 951 is met on the SOU campus by providing Southern Oregon University students with increased and institutionalized access to voter registration, education and turnout materials and information. The Student Vote Coalition, which focuses on registering, educating, and turning out voters between the ages of 18-30, is a non-partisan, statewide coalition including members of the Associated Students of Southern Oregon University, the Oregon Student Association, the Oregon Community College Student Association, and the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group. The following policy will determine how the Student Vote Coalition will function and cooperate with Southern Oregon University students, faculty, staff, and administrators during voter registration, education, and turnout drives. The Director of Governmental Affairs for the Associated Students of Southern Oregon University will ensure that all activities carried out on SOU's campus by the Student Vote Coalition are non-partisan in nature and that the policy's expectations are met and guidelines followed.

III. Policy and Guidelines (Arranged by Campus Sector)

a. Residential Life

i. Student Outreach

1. Student Vote Coalition members will be allowed to schedule time in the main lobbies and floor lobbies of residence halls on the Sunday and Monday before elections in order to remind students to vote. (The Student Vote Coalition will do this by arranging programs with RAs and RHA and going through the normal approval process for doing so.)
2. The Student Vote Coalition will be permitted to schedule time at hall meetings held during the beginning of term(s) to register students to vote and offer any information regarding registration students may need.

3. The Student Vote Coalition will work to coordinate with members of RHA and the Residential Life staff when organizing education and ballot collection events.
- ii. Campus Visibility
 1. For voter registration, education, and turnout efforts, the Student Vote Coalition will not be permitted to go door knocking in the residence halls. However, members of the coalition will be allowed into the residence halls to hang information about registration deadlines, voter education materials, and other necessary flyers on door handles (after getting the materials approved). Members of the Student Vote Coalition who enter the halls to distribute this information will coordinate with a member of hall RHA to do so.
 2. The Student Vote Coalition will be allowed to provide voter information materials to new residents on move-in day by sending members of the coalition to staff information tables in the residential complexes.
 3. The Student Vote Coalition may contact the Office of Residential Life in order to approve and add information about the voter registration and education process onto information sheets that have been posted on RAs' floors.
 - iii. Collection and Tracking
 1. As RAs are valuable resources to their residents, the Student Vote Coalition will coordinate with the Office of Residential Life in order to make optional trainings in voter registration available to them.
 2. Secure, unofficial ballot/voter reg. card collection boxes, the contents of which will be collected by the Student Vote Coalition, will be located in the Greensprings Office, as well as the mail room in Cascade Complex.
 3. Blank voter registration cards will also be made available in the Greensprings Office and the mail room in Cascade Complex.

b. Resource Centers

- i. Student Outreach
 1. The Commuter, Multicultural, Queer, and Women's Resource Centers will coordinate with the Student Vote Coalition to organize joint and/or individual voter registration, education, and turnout events when appropriate.
- ii. Campus Visibility

1. The Student Vote Coalition will provide resource centers with promotional materials that can be used to advertise important events and deadlines that relate to voter registration, education, and turnout.
- iii. Collection and Tracking
 1. As resource center staff members are valuable resources to their constituents, they will be trained (by a member of the Student Vote Coalition) in how to register students to vote during their regular job preparation.
 2. The Student Vote Coalition will ensure that voter registration cards are always available in SOU's resource centers.
 3. Secure, unofficial ballot/voter reg. card collection boxes, the contents of which will be collected by the Student Vote Coalition, will be located in each of the resource centers.

c. SOU Ashland Campus Bookstore

- i. Student Outreach
 1. The Student Vote Coalition will be allowed space in the entrance of the SOU Ashland Campus Bookstore in which they can place voter registration and education materials. When appropriate, members of the Student Vote Coalition may also staff this space in order to provide information and offer assistance to students registering to vote or seeking education materials.
- ii. Campus Visibility
 1. The Student Vote Coalition will coordinate with the bookstore to make voter registration and education materials available and visible to students.
- iii. Collection and Tracking
 1. A secure, unofficial ballot/voter reg. card collection box, the contents of which will be collected by the Student Vote Coalition, may be placed in the space in the entrance of the bookstore when appropriate.

d. Enrollment Services Center

- i. Student Outreach
 1. The Student Vote Coalition will be allowed to send members to canvass lines in the Enrollment Services Center in order to reach out to students with voter registration and education materials while they await their turn.
- ii. Campus Visibility

1. The Student Vote Coalition will coordinate with the Enrollment Services Center to make visible in the ESC any promotional materials regarding voter registration, education, and turnout events and deadlines.
- iii. Collection and Tracking
 1. The Student Vote Coalition will be allowed space in the Enrollment Services Center (such as a table) for voter registration and education materials, which may include a secure, unofficial ballot/voter reg. card collection box. Any completed materials will be collected and turned in by the Student Vote Coalition.

e. New Student Orientation

- i. Student Outreach
 1. The Student Vote Coalition will collaborate with the coordinator(s) of New Student Orientation each term to designate time during Orientation for announcement(s) of voter registration processes on campus so that new students will have access to the information they need in order to register to vote and locate education materials at SOU.
- ii. Campus Visibility
 1. The Student Vote Coalition will be allowed to have a table (and representatives) at New Student Orientation each term so that new students will have access to voter registration and education materials when they check in for Orientation.
- iii. Collection and Tracking
 1. The coordinator(s) of New Student Orientation will work with the Student Vote Coalition to train Orientation leaders to properly register students to vote and to return completed registration cards to the Student Vote Coalition.
 2. Student Vote Coalition members will be responsible for collecting and turning in all voter registration materials once they have been filled out by new students during Orientation.

f. University Seminar

- i. Student Outreach
 1. As University Seminar classes contain a large amount of new students, the Student Vote Coalition will work to maintain consistent communication with University Seminar professors during voter registration and education drives.

- a. The Student Vote Coalition will keep University Seminar professors updated on opportunities for in-class registration, education, and turnout raps and work to schedule such events with interested professors.
 - b. The Student Vote Coalition will work with the University Seminar program to arrange voter registration, education, and turnout events outside of class time if appropriate.
- ii. Campus Visibility
 - 1. The Student Vote Coalition will provide University Seminar professors with promotional materials regarding voter registration, education, and turnout events and deadlines.
- iii. Collection and Tracking
 - 1. The Student Vote Coalition will turn in any filled out voter registration materials collected during educational and promotional class raps/events arranged with the University Seminar program.

g. Athletics

- i. Student Outreach
 - 1. The Student Vote Coalition will communicate with the athletics department to arrange appropriate times/meetings to reach out to athletes with voter registration and education materials and information. The coalition will also work with the department to arrange for representatives of the Student Vote Coalition to make voter registration and education materials available at athletics events if appropriate.
- ii. Campus Visibility
 - 1. The Student Vote Coalition will provide the athletics department with promotional materials regarding voter registration, education, and turnout events and deadlines.
- iii. Collection and Tracking
 - 1. The Student Vote Coalition will turn in any filled out voter registration materials collected during educational and promotional meetings arranged with the athletics department.

h. Medford Campus

- i. Student Outreach
 - 1. The Student Vote Coalition will work with the director and/or other staff members of the Medford campus to

organize joint and/or individual voter registration, education, and turnout events (at the Medford campus) when appropriate.

ii. Campus Visibility

1. The Student Vote Coalition will provide the Medford campus with promotional materials that can be used to advertise important events and deadlines that relate to voter registration, education, and turnout.

iii. Collection and Tracking

1. The Student Vote Coalition will coordinate with the director of the Medford campus to designate time(s) to train Medford campus staff members to register students to vote.
2. The Student Vote Coalition will ensure that voter registration cards are always available in the Enrollment Services Center and other high traffic locations (such as the lounge and bookstore) at the Medford campus.
3. A secure, unofficial ballot/voter reg. card collection box, the contents of which will be collected by the Student Vote Coalition, will be placed in the Enrollment Services Center at the Medford campus.

IV. Policy Review and Update Procedure

The guidelines listed above will be reviewed and updated as necessary every 2 years by Southern Oregon University's recognized student government (the Associated Students of Southern Oregon University), faculty, staff, and administrators.