

FACULTY ACTION ITEM 22-1

Date: *September 13, 2021*

Submitted by: Executive Committee, on behalf of *Chloe Chaffin, WSGA*

SUBJECT: *Washburn Expansion of On-campus Voting Opportunities*

Description: *This resolution asks for support for the increased expansion of on-campus voting opportunities at Washburn University which may include asking the Shawnee County Election Office to use Washburn's campus as a polling site for the full early voting period, for all primary and general elections, including off-year elections, and as a permanent hosting site for a secured ballot drop box or more.*

Rationale: *According to data from The National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), 30-60% of registered students at Kansas universities did not vote in recent elections and data from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) found that half of the survey respondents cite accessibility to polling locations as the primary reason for not having voted in the last election. Additionally, third of CIRCLE respondents cited access to transportation as the only reason. Because the faculty of Washburn is committed to the ideals of fairness, equal representation, and community power and because Shawnee County is currently served by only one early polling place and one secured ballot drop box, the university should live out its values and support expanded polling options on campus.*

Financial Implications: *As a simple statement of support, no immediate cost will be incurred. Future costs to manage extended polling dates will be largely if not entirely supported by the Shawnee County Election Office.*

Proposed Effective Date: *Support for increased on-campus voting opportunities will be effective immediately.*

Request for Action: *Approval from Executive Committee*

Approved by: *Faculty Senate on October 25, 2021*

Attachments Yes No