

1 **R W2018.08**

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3 **A Resolution to Propose to the LSA Student Body a Binding Ballot Question Regarding the**
4 **Elimination of “Michigan Time”**

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6 *A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student*
7 *Government*

8
9 21 February 2018

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11 Sponsors: Nicholas Fadanelli, Ryan Gillcrist, Jon Reid, Edward Thomson, Frank Ferrari, Jenna
12 Varcak, Jordan Schuler, Chayton Fivecoat, Taylor Mikkelson, Shihaab Punia

13
14 **Whereas**, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government
15 (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to
16 improve academic and non-academic life”;¹ and,

17
18 **Whereas**, currently most classes at the University of Michigan operate under “Michigan Time”
19 which, as described by *The Michigan Record* is, “the practice of starting classes, meetings and
20 events 10 minutes after the designated start time to allow for travel time across campus”;² and,

21
22 **Whereas**, “Michigan Time” is a historic and culturally significant part of the Michigan
23 Experience, having been first mentioned by President Emeritus Alexander G. Ruthven in 1930
24 and was first implemented in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (hereafter LSA) by
25 LSA Dean Edward Kraus in 1932;² and,

26
27 **Whereas**, “Michigan Time” as it currently stands allows for students to travel across campus to
28 class, both from other classes and non-academic commitments, such as employment, student
29 organization meetings, and sports team practices, that traditionally end on the hour; and,

30
31 **Whereas**, although LSA, Engineering, and most undergraduate schools and colleges utilize
32 “Michigan Time”, several schools and colleges do not - leading to issues reserving and sharing
33 classrooms in certain buildings, and for students taking courses in certain schools and colleges;²
34 and,

35
36 **Whereas**, on Monday February 19th, 2018 the University of Michigan and the Provost’s Office
37 officially announced that “Michigan Time” will be ending as of May 1, 2018;² and,

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39 **Whereas**, the elimination of “Michigan Time” may lead to more synchronization between the
40 various schools and colleges, eliminating the normalization of students arriving late to

¹ The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

² “University editing start, end time for classes” - *The Michigan Record*
<https://record.umich.edu/articles/university-updating-start-end-times-classes>

41 commitments, and may allow for increased ease of booking classrooms for classes and/or events;
42 and,

43

44 **Whereas**, the changes, however, may also lead to greater difficulty for students going to class
45 from other time-commitments, such as employment or athletic commitments, and will cause a
46 great deal of confusion for several years for current students that are used to having “Michigan
47 Time”; and,

48

49 **Whereas**, the Provost’s Office did not seek out student input from school/college student
50 governments, or the student body as a whole, regarding the elimination of “Michigan Time” prior
51 to the announcement of its termination; and,

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53 **Whereas**, as reported in *The Michigan Daily* article, “Game over: Michigan time to be
54 eliminated”³, there are mixed student responses to the elimination of “Michigan Time”, albeit
55 with the overall response being negative, as noted by a Change.org petition “Petition to not get rid
56 of Michigan time”;⁴ and,

57

58 **Whereas**, LSA SG seeks to accurately represent the interests and opinions of the LSA student
59 body, and has done so in the past through ballot questions.

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61 **Be it therefore resolved**, LSA SG shall place on the Winter 2018 ballot a binding ballot question
62 for the student body of the College of LSA to vote on - formatted as follows:

63

64 “Currently many University of Michigan classes start on “Michigan Time”, which is the practice
65 of starting classes, meetings and events ten minutes after the designated start time to allow for
66 travel time across campus. The Provost’s Office announced on February 19th that it is eliminating
67 “Michigan Time” and replacing it with having classes begin at the designated start time and end
68 ten minutes early.

69

70 Should LSA Student Government support the replacement of “Michigan Time” in favor of the
71 new practice?”

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- 73 A) Yes, LSA SG should support the replacement of “Michigan Time”
74 B) No, LSA SG should oppose the replacement of “Michigan Time”
75 C) I do not have an opinion on what LSA SG’s position on “Michigan Time” should be

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77 ; and,

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³ “Game over: Michigan time to be eliminated” - *The Michigan Daily*
<https://www.michigandaily.com/section/academics/michigan-time-change-next-semester>

⁴ “Petition to not get rid of Michigan time” - Change.org
<https://www.change.org/p/university-of-michigan-ann-arbor-not-get-rid-of-michigan-time>

79 **Be it further resolved,** the results of this referenda shall be binding on LSA SG until the end of
80 the Winter 2019 Semester, unless voided by a subsequent vote of the student body on this same
81 question; and,

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83 **Be it finally resolved,** LSA SG shall send a copy of the results of the referenda, along with a
84 statement, to the College of LSA Dean Andrew Martin, College of LSA Associate Dean Angela
85 Dillard, University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel, University of Michigan Provost Martin
86 Philbert, and the University of Michigan Board of Regents.