

R F2020.08

A Resolution Calling on the University of Michigan to Amend Their Policy Regarding Including AP and IB Credit In Calculating Registration Dates

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

October 28, 2020

Sponsored by: Gaby Torres, Divya Manikandan, Anna Colvin, Danny Hwang, Joseph Lobodzinski, Elizabeth Sommerfeld, Jacob Cohen, Thomas Donahue, Maleny Crespo, Adrianna Farmer, Max Stoneman, Selena Bazzi, Josiah Walker, Zackariah Farah, Kayla Rothstein, Gaurie Gunasekaran, Tyler Watt, Allison Goodsell, Kathryn McCaughey, Tim Dalrymple, Magda Wojtara, Mary McKillop

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

Whereas, the purpose of the Academic Affairs Committee shall be to “investigate issues concerning the academic quality of life for students of the College, research, formulate and evaluate proposals pertaining to College policies and practices, and recommend, on behalf of students, the adoption of resolutions and specific courses of actions concerning academic affairs.”;² and,

Whereas, the University of Michigan Office of Undergraduate Admissions encourages potential applicants to the University to partake in Advanced Placement (hereafter AP) and International Baccalaureate (hereafter IB) courses when possible;³ and,

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

² LSA Student Government Bylaws, 9.01.00

³ <https://admissions.umich.edu/apply/first-year-applicants/college-preparation>

Whereas, the University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts rewards college credit to students who perform at a certain level on their AP examinations⁴ as well as for students who receive a certain grade in their IB examinations;⁵ and,

Whereas, students receiving college credit through these high school programs often benefit from fulfilling requirements for certain majors, and, therefore, are more able to experience financial benefits such as graduating early; and,

Whereas, including the above benefits to AP and IB courses, AP and IB credit hours help determine a student's registration time, giving students with AP/IB credit preference during course registration;⁶ and,

Whereas, utilizing a registration policy in which AP and IB credits are counted leads to a disparity between students with AP or IB credits and those without. This disparity endures throughout the individual's college experience; and,

Whereas, a later registration date can prevent students from enrolling in courses required for their degree program and will have further negative effects; and,

Whereas, independent research shows that there is a disproportionate ratio of low-income students and students of color that do not have access to these AP and IB courses;⁷ and,

Whereas, registration should not be based on credit hours earned before the beginning of a student's college career, as it privileges certain groups based on experiences outside the university; and,

Whereas, efforts from the University of Michigan to improve Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion practices have led to a greater focus on providing equitable access to our courses, such as not being hindered from accessing courses due to a late registration time.

⁴ <https://admissions.umich.edu/apply/first-year-applicants/ap-ib-credit/ap-guidelines#LSA>

⁵ <https://admissions.umich.edu/apply/first-year-applicants/ap-ib-credit/ib-guidelines>

⁶ <https://ro.umich.edu/records-registration/registration>

⁷ <https://sites.ed.gov/underservedyouth/files/2017/01/MS3-Lead-Higher-Initiative-Finding-Americas-Missing-AP-and-IB-Students.pdf>

Be it therefore resolved, LSA SG calls on the University of Michigan to change its policy regarding registration dates to no longer account for AP and IB credit when determining registration time; and,

Be it further resolved, LSA SG encourages the University to further its research to provide a more equitable learning atmosphere for all students; and,

Be it finally resolved, this resolution will be sent to relevant LSA faculty and administration, including but not limited to the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Academic Affairs, RaShonda Flint, the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education, Kelly Maxwell, as well as the Office of the Registrar.