**UNIVERSITY NAME**

**RESOLUTION TO UPHOLD THE RIGHT TO VOTE**

**Supporting a Constitutional Amendment to Grant an Explicit Right to Vote, Establishing a Task Force on Voting, and Commencing a Call to Action**

WHEREAS, North Carolina has recently enacted a set of laws that may make it harder for college students and young adults to vote, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina constitution, except where authority is explicitly delegated, generally does not permit local control of local elections, with most rules regarding election administration, even for purely local elections, prescribed by the state legislature, and

WHEREAS, North Carolina’s new law requires all voters, including students, to show ID at the polling place beginning in 2016, and

WHEREAS, North Carolina law does not permit university IDs to be considered sufficient proof of identity at polling places, which burdens students’ access to the ballot, and

WHEREAS, North Carolina law only permits out of state driver’s licenses to be used as proof of identity if the prospective voter has moved to North Carolina within 60 days of the election, further burdening students’ access to the ballot, and

WHEREAS, the availability of early voting at colleges and universities has been restricted, to the detriment of student voters, and

WHEREAS, colleges and universities are often vital in shaping the civic life of local communities, and can play a key role in encouraging participation in public affairs among young persons, and

WHEREAS, turnout in North Carolina for 18-24 year-olds in 2012 was 50.0%, for 56.6% for 18-29-year olds, 56.6%, compared to a 68.3% turnout rate for the state in general for the same election, and

WHEREAS, the United States ranks in the bottom 20% of nations in voter turnout for presidential elections, and lower in congressional and local elections; and

WHEREAS, the 15th, 19th, and 26th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution prohibit discrimination in voting on the basis of race, sex, and age respectively, and the 24th Amendment prohibits poll taxes, these amendments do not guarantee Americans an explicit right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the United States is one of the 11 nations that does not have the explicit right to vote in its constitution out of the 119 nations that elect their public officials using democratic elections; and

WHEREAS, an individual right to vote is a fundamental American right and fundamental rights should be guaranteed to all Americans in the U.S. Constitution.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENTS OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, ASSEMBELED \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ THAT:**

SECTION 1 – RIGHT TO VOTE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

We hereby affirm that the right to vote is a fundamental citizenship right to be cherished, protected, and exercised.

We call on our members of Congress, and our representatives in the state legislature, to support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would grant an explicit right to vote to every American citizen of voting age.

We urge our city and our county to pass right to vote resolutions committing support for an explicit right to vote in the U.S. Constitution.

SECTION 2 – TASK FORCE ON VOTING

We support establishing a Right to Vote Task:

* to uphold the right to vote, which shall review all election laws and practices that may affect the right to vote in our campus, local, state and federal elections, and the ability of voters to elect candidates of choice;
* to review how best the administration can support students who are voting by absentee ballot;
* to support changes in state and local election laws and practices to preserve and extend voting rights;
* to reach out to student governments at other North Carolina campuses to share best practices and coordinate advocacy for laws to uphold the right to vote;
* to develop a student education campaign designed to encourage increased voter participation in all election, to be pollworkers and promote greater awareness of student government and participation in its elections.

SECTION 3 – CALL TO ACTION

We call on our state government to review North Carolina’s voting laws to ensure access to all eligible voters, including students, young voters, and first time voters.

We urge that laws and practices that burden the voting rights of North Carolina voters, including students and young adults, be repealed or amended.

We ask our college administration to assist in our efforts to register all eligible voters associated with the college, to encourage their participation and to help address any barriers to participation involving polling places and absentee voting procedures.

We will publicize information on campus about local elections, including polling stations, a guide to becoming a poll worker and other information students need to exercise their right to vote.

We resolve that despite the obstacles to exercising our right to vote imposed by burdensome laws, we shall make every effort that eligible voters on our campus can fully participate in every election in which they are eligible to cast a vote.

We shall provide suitable copies of this resolution to the governor, our state legislative representatives, the U.S. Speaker of the House, the U.S. Senate Majority Leader, this state’s congressional delegation, the U.S. President and our city and county elected representatives.