ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY

BILL TO ESTABLISH THE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE AS A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE

UGS-S2025-xx

AUTHORS: Lizbeth Hernandez-Rios, UGS Senator; Ethan Alfonso, UGS Deputy Chair
SPONSORS: Ivy Chen, UGS Co-Chair; Gordon Allen, UGS Co-Chair; David Sengthay, UGS Appropriations Chair and Communications Chair; Celeste Vargas, UGS Health and Safety Chair; Jadon Urogdy, UGS Treasurer; Yoanna Hoskins, UGS Faculty Senate Representative
DATE SUBMITTED:
ACTION REQUESTED: 2/3 of the Undergraduate Senate
STATUS: April 23 2025, **11-0-0 Passed**

WHEREAS the Undergraduate Senate currently maintains three Standing Committees—Administration and Rules, Appropriations, and Communications—as outlined in Article II, Section 4(E) of the Undergraduate Senate By-Laws;

WHEREAS the Undergraduate Senate does not currently have a standing body dedicated to advancing civic engagement, political education, and student advocacy efforts;

WHEREAS the Political Action Committee has served as a space for student leaders to build organizing skills, elevate community concerns, and engage in strategic political work across campus;

WHEREAS formalizing the Political Action Committee as a Standing Committee will ensure its continuity, elevate its responsibilities, and signal the Undergraduate Senate's commitment to supporting political consciousness and mobilization;

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE:

THAT Article II, Section 4(E) of the Undergraduate Senate By-Laws be amended to include the following Standing Committee:

Political Action

a. Shall coordinate efforts to politically mobilize the undergraduate student body on issues of student concern, both locally and nationally.
b. Shall provide civic education and policy-based trainings for Stanford undergraduates.
c. Shall collaborate with student organizations, campus stakeholders, and community groups to foster active engagement.

d. Shall advise the Undergraduate Senate–and the student body, when applicable–on opportunities for advocacy, public endorsements, and institutional accountability efforts.
e. Shall aid in preserving institutional memory around major student-led political campaigns, resolutions, and solidarity efforts through written documentation and Senate archives.
f. Shall defend the rights and freedoms of student activists, amplifying and supporting their advocacy in alignment with Senate values and commitments.
g. Shall hold university leadership accountable by demanding transparency and ensuring decisions prioritize the needs and well-being of all students, with a focus on marginalized communities.
h. Shall promote policies that safeguard free speech, organizing rights, and inclusive political participation on campus.

THAT the Political Action Committee shall be considered a Standing Committee of the Undergraduate Senate immediately upon passage of this bill;

THAT the Undergraduate Senate Chair shall appoint a Political Action Committee Chair in accordance with the procedures used to seat other Standing Committee Chairs;

AND THAT the Political Action Committee shall adhere to all relevant provisions governing US Committees as outlined in Article II, Section 4 of the Undergraduate Senate By-Laws, including those related to membership, meeting frequency, quorum, committee powers, and officer selection.