

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS 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.

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS ^{OF} STANFORD UNIVERSITY

- 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.