Association of Big Ten Students

Summer Conference 2016

Host: Pennsylvania State University

Legislative Docket



ABTS Summer 2016 Legislative Session

Pennsylvania State University

Executive Director Nick Wilson & Executive Director-Elect Presiding

1. Call to order
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Nomination & Election of 2016-2017 ABTS Executive Board Officers
   1. Executive Director
   2. Associate Director
   3. Director of Legislative Affairs
   4. Secretary
   5. Treasurer
   6. Conference Coordinator
   7. Director of Public Relations
4. Legislative Docket
   1. ABTS 07.16.01
   2. ABTS 07.16.02
   3. ABTS 07.16.03
5. Old Business
6. New business
7. Adjournment

Resolution ABTS: 07.16.01

*Resolution Supporting the Restoration of Year-Round Federal Pell Grants*

Sponsors: Rutgers University, University of Iowa, University of Maryland

**WHEREAS,** a Federal Pell Grant is money from the U.S. Department of Education that is intended to help low-income students afford college, and

**WHEREAS,** Pell Grants are distributed based on financial need and do not need to be repaid, and

**WHEREAS,** 8.2 million undergraduate students received a Pell Grant in 2014-2015, and[[1]](#footnote-0)

**WHEREAS,** previously Congress allocated funding for year-round Pell Grants, but ended the program in 2011, and

**WHEREAS,** the maximum award for a Pell Grant is $5,815 for the 2016-2017 year, and

**WHEREAS,** the maximum award for a Pell Grant will automatically increase to $5,915 for the 2017-2018 school year, and

**WHEREAS,** the Pell Grant program this year will cost $22 billion and its surplus this year is projected to be $7.8 billion, and[[2]](#footnote-1)

**WHEREAS,** this surplus is the result of slight enrollment declines nationally, tightened eligibility requirements, and improving family finances following the recession, and

**WHEREAS,** the White House has recommended a return to year-round Pell Grants, and[[3]](#footnote-2)

**WHEREAS,** on June 7, 2016 the U.S. Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations subcommittee approved Bill S1062 that would restore year-round Pell Grants with bipartisan support, and[[4]](#footnote-3)

**WHEREAS,** on July 6, 2016 the U.S. House Appropriations Committee released a bill that would prevent the restoration of year-round Pell Grants, and[[5]](#footnote-4)

**WHEREAS,** a return to year-round Pell Grants should provide about 1 million students with enough funds to take summer classes, and[[6]](#footnote-5)

**WHEREAS,** studies have demonstrated that government grants have a positive impact on the graduation rates of low-income students, and[[7]](#footnote-6)

**WHEREAS,** restoring summer Pell Grants can help increase four-year graduation rates and will promote the chances of success for low-income students across the Big Ten, and

**WHEREAS,** the Association of Big Ten Students has a responsibility to consider proposals that work to benefit all of the students who attend Big Ten Universities, and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Association of Big Ten Students supports the restored funding of year-round Pell Grants.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Association of Big Ten Students will lobby all respective federal officials and entities to encourage the support of year-round Pell Grants.

Resolution ABTS: 07.16.02

*Resolution Supporting Federal Legislation on Medical Amnesty*

Sponsors: Indiana University and Rutgers University

**WHEREAS,** the rates of underage drinking and especially heavy episodic drinking (HED) have been increasing steadily on college campuses in the United States. In any given month, up to 65% of college students will drink alcohol, with a large capacity of them engaging in binge drinking. However a majority of injuries and other negative consequences occur near standard drinking amounts, levels that the majority of students drink at[[8]](#footnote-7)

**WHEREAS,** alcohol intoxication is responsible for a large number of injuries and even deaths on college campuses, including up to 1800 deaths, 599,000 cases of physical assault, and 97,000 instances of sexual assault on a yearly basis[[9]](#footnote-8)

**WHEREAS,** alcohol has been labeled a factor in sexual assault which is another pressing issue on college campuses, and engaging in HED dramatically increases sexual assault victimization among college-age women[[10]](#footnote-9)

**WHEREAS,** medical amnesty policies are hereby defined as policies which protect those who inform the correct authorities about medical emergencies related to alcohol and drugs and those who suffer from these emergencies from criminal liability,

**WHEREAS,** fifteen states in the United States have not yet adopted statewide medical amnesty policies or lifeline legislation on drugs or alcohol,

**WHEREAS,** three of the aforementioned states contain Universities that are members of ABTS. These Universities lack the appropriate state precedent to create their own amnesty policies.

**WHEREAS,** eleven member Universities of ABTS do not have clear policies protecting victims of drug-related medical emergencies, and eight member Universities of ABTS do not have clear policies that outline protection for those calling about medical emergencies affecting another,

**WHEREAS,** every situation involving an alcohol or drug emergency is serious, and potentially fatal,

**WHEREAS,** a medical amnesty policy[[11]](#footnote-10) at Cornell University resulted in an increased number of alcohol-related calls to the local EMS, and an increased number of students completing alcohol or drug educational intervention programs,[[12]](#footnote-11)

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Association of Big Ten Students supports legislation creating a uniform medical amnesty policy at institutes of higher education in all 50 states.

Resolution ABTS: 07.16.03

*Create a “BIG Ten Voter Registration Week/Day” to register students all over the 14 BIG Ten Campuses to vote.*

Sponsors: University of Minnesota, Indiana University, University of Illinois

**WHEREAS**, only 38% of people from 18-24 years old voted in the 2012 elections, being both the lowest demographic of the age groups that voted and also down from the 2008 election.

**WHEREAS**, 21%, estimated to be about 1.7 million, of young people from the ages of 18-24 said they were not registered to vote or had missed the registration deadline. [2]

**WHEREAS**, 16.5 million youth have turned 18 since the 2012 election. [1]

**WHEREAS**, as the elected representatives of our respective student bodies, we should encourage and facilitate civic engagement for our campus populations so that their voices as students are heard on a campus, state and national level.

**RESOLVED**, that ABTS supports a “BIG Ten Voter Registration Week” to register students to vote on the 14 BIG Ten campuses across the nation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that a committee will be created to coordinate campaign efforts, materials and graphics for the “BIG Ten Voter Registration Week.” The committee would coordinate what week works best with State voter registration deadlines kept in mind. The committee

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, to better understand the voting trends on their respective campuses, BIG Ten School will submit an inquiry report for the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) that offers colleges and universities an opportunity to learn about their student registration and voting rates. [4]

References:

* [1] <http://civicyouth.org/quick-facts/youth-demographics/>
* [2] <http://campusvoteproject.org/why-student-voters-matter/>
* [3] <https://www.census.gov/prod/2014pubs/p20-573.pdf>
* [4] <http://activecitizen.tufts.edu/nslve-faq/nslve-report-inquiry/>

1. <https://trends.collegeboard.org/student-aid/figures-tables/pell-grants-total-expenditures-maximum-and-average-grant-and-number-recipients-over-time> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/pell-grant-program-projected-to-see-7-8-billion-surplus-next-year-1464908583> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/01/19/white-house-plan-restore-year-round-pell-grants-and-create-new-bonus> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/06/08/senate-panel-backs-year-round-pell-grants-and-boost-nih-funding> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2016/07/07/us-house-bill-would-nix-year-round-pell-grants> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/06/08/senate-panel-backs-year-round-pell-grants-and-boost-nih-funding> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
7. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/04/04/study-shows-positive-imapcts-government-aid-graduation-rates> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
8. <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/arcr352/201-218.htm> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
9. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2701090/> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
10. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18540718> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
11. <http://www.gannett.cornell.edu/topics/drugs/alcohol/map.cfm> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
12. <https://www.gannett.cornell.edu/cms/pdf/aod/upload/Safety1stcornellMedamnesty.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)