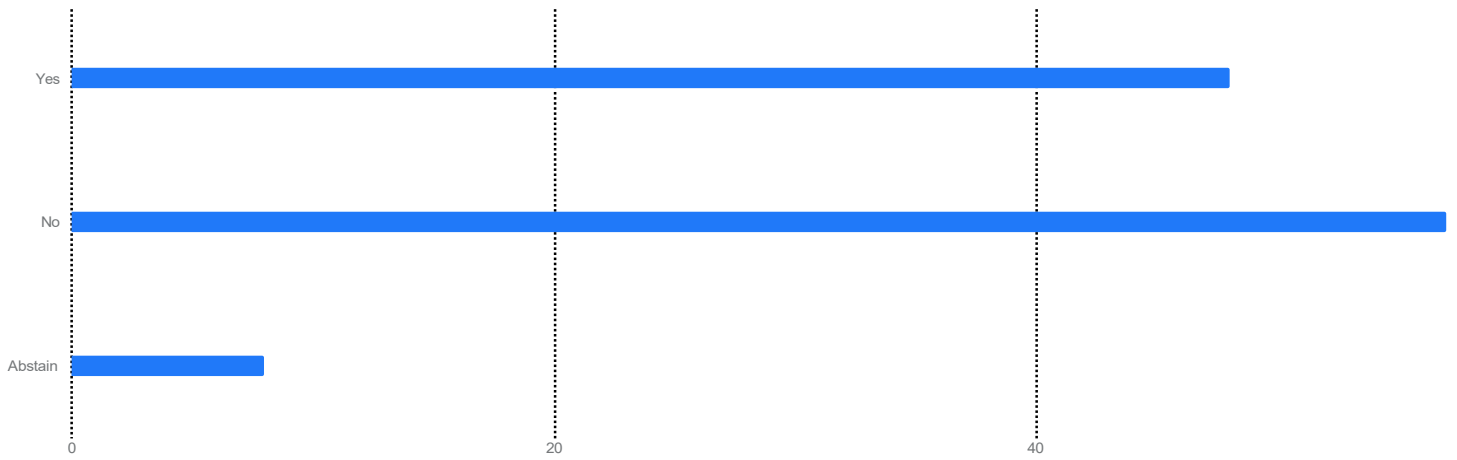


Are you in favor of Sense of the Senate Resolution for academic listservs to focus on academic matters? 113 ⓘ



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Q1 - Are you in favor of Sense of the Senate Resolution for academic listservs to focus on academic matters?

Percentage

Count

	Percentage	Count
Yes	42%	48
No	50%	57
Abstain	7%	8



Comments 113 ⓘ

Comments

Comments

The proposed Sense of the Senate resolution undermines faculty academic freedom and shared governance.

From the discussion at the faculty senate, it looks like some faculty are unaware that students and faculty in their department are feeling offended by some messages coming through department email lists and Canvas. They said that "this isn't happening in my department". When community members don't report on it doesn't mean that it isn't happening; it means that people are afraid to stand up to strong and/or majority voices. This perpetuates the bullying that's happening by some faculty members and the marginalization of certain voices in our community.

This has the appearance of a veiled attempt to suppress freedom of speech, which we should preserve as an academic institution that celebrates its commitment to freedom of speech

This resolution is unnecessary. If there are issues in particular departments, they can be dealt with internally. The wording in the resolution is vague and could possibly cover many issues about which listserv's are legitimately used. The Senator from one Department (Government) who spoke at the last meeting and said this would be impossible to implement.

This resolution was not specific enough as there is already rules governing what academic listserv cannot be used for in terms of content.

Seems like it is the purview of the departments

I wish that it had been formulated MORE NARROWLY. For example, whatever YG's intent was, as formulated it does apply to communications among faculty using departmental listservs. It would have been better to have a resolution calling on instructors not to use course listservs or Canvas course-sites to encourage, or discourage, students in their classes to engage in, or from engaging in, specified political activities. I think that such a resolution would address the problems to which YG referred when presenting the reasons for the original resolution.

There are no problems along the lines mentioned in my department. The resolution could result in a perception that the institution is monitoring routine emails, resulting in self-censorship. The phrase "emails that have political implications" is unacceptably broad.

The comments opposing this resolution at the meeting were not compelling: a) It does not matter that some have not received such messages in their departments. The problem is in the departments documented to have disseminated them to faculty and students b) This is not something that faculty should work out among themselves. The issue is *students* interested in a academic discipline who may feel unfairly and unprofessionally disenfranchised by a department's overt political bias c) as mentioned at the meeting, there could be as well be issues for faculty members feeling they cannot speak up to counter seeming inappropriate advocacy by their department due to existing power structures within it

The language of the resolution is overly vague and fails to adequately address the complexities of the issues it seeks to resolve. Each department and field engages with politics in nuanced and discipline-specific ways, and the nature of productive political discourse on departmental listservs should be determined on a case-by-case basis by the departments themselves. In many disciplines, guest lectures, field activities, and course topics are inherently and meaningfully engaged with political issues. A blanket, one-size-fits-all policy risks creating a chilling effect, stifling important conversations and academic freedom. It would be far more effective and appropriate for department executive councils to address these concerns internally, ensuring that policies reflect the specific needs and contexts of their fields while maintaining professional standards.

I agree with it in principle but wasn't convinced a resolution on the matter was necessary.

At first glance, this might look like a reasonable resolution. However, it is so poorly written and vaguely worded that it could be interpreted to prohibit nearly anything and everything. What does the resolution mean by "political issues" and "political implications"? How might this resolution relate to existing university policies? What is the evidence and context for the allegations made here? It is disappointing that the resolution authors were unprepared or unwilling to answer such basic questions about their proposed resolution. The Faculty Senate can do better than this.

I have mixed feelings on this resolution, based on the discussion and comment at the last Senate meeting, and I was not able to gather input from my department colleagues in order to make an informed vote as a representative.

Even if this does not pass, I think it is reasonable for all faculty to consider whether their personal political beliefs should be required reading for those just trying to access homework assignments, or as part of other duty-related communications.

This resolution unduly restricts our ability to communicate with one another and with our students, inappropriately makes department decisions university-wide policy, and inaccurately imagines a narrow definition of "academic matters" that does not reflect the work we do and the various publics that we necessarily are in conversation with. I vote no in the strongest possible terms.

I'd like to thank our colleagues for bringing this issue to our attention and highlighting our shared communication practices. Just a quick question. Personally, I haven't seen or heard any emails with political messages sent to students through course email lists or Canvas, nor am I aware if this is an issue across campus. However, I do agree that course emails and Canvas should stick to course-related content for clarity and professionalism. With all due respect, I have concerns about the impact of this kind of resolution. If this resolution becomes policy, it may unintentionally isolate faculty, weaken our sense of community, foster disempowerment, and lead to political disengagement, disintegration, and even division. Given the current climate, political indifference or apathy are the last things we need as we face increasing anti-democratic forces in the upcoming second Trump term.