**A JOINT RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS VETERANS’ EDUCATIONAL ISSUES**

AUTHORS: GSC Secretary Garrett Jeter,

Razorback Student Veterans President Brandon McKenney,

ASG Director for Veterans Affairs Will Watkins

Sponsor: Senator Strohmann Breeding, Senator Zane Lovell, Senator Jesse Kloss, Senator Drake Moudy, Senator Clay Smith

WHEREAS, the Chancellor’s Guiding Priorities under “Advancing Student Success” states the commitment to “Maximizing the success of students is our highest priority starting with their recruitment and ending with their transition to careers or further education. We will work to maximize the success of our students … by increasing financial assistance for those who need it, easing the transition into the university, improving retention and graduation rates, and providing career planning and career transition assistance,” and

WHEREAS, an additional Priority under “Enriching Campus Diversity and Inclusion” states that “Diversity should permeate the very fabric of the University of Arkansas to create an inclusive environment. We will therefore work to diversify along many dimensions our faculty, staff and students and at the same time continue to foster a culture that is welcoming to all,” and veterans constitute an underrepresented segment of the population for purposes and understanding of diversity, and

WHEREAS, the University of Arkansas has been recognized as one of the country’s most military- and veteran-friendly institutions of higher learning in the United States, and it is in keeping with this eminent position as leader in this area, as well as being a Purple Heart University, that the University’s leadership in this area should continue to demonstrate itself in veteran-friendly policies and procedures for application, enrollment, registration for classes, and continuation of both undergraduate and graduate studies, and

WHEREAS, active duty military, to include out-of-state personnel, who reside at a distance may experience difficulty in timely registration for classes because of such distance, particularly when they have exited service after registration for classes that have already filled and therefore must compete for a few remaining spots in required classes, and

WHEREAS, the University has the opportunity to maintain that reputation with provision of a smooth transition to civilian life for servicemembers exiting military life as well as the occasion for student veterans to experience and fulfill their professional development as civilians, and

WHEREAS, some veterans encounter financial and procedural difficulties in commencing, continuing, and finishing their educations, particularly, payment of application fees, registration processes, and inability to finish their degree programs because of expiration of financial assistance before degree completion,

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT GOVERNMENT REQUESTS THE UNIVERSITY TO CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:**

1. Waiving the application fee for applying for admission to the University as either undergraduate or graduate degree-seeking active duty military and veteran students.

2. Provision of a partial tuition fellowship to an active duty or veteran student to close any financial gap that may occur if and whenever the student’s financial assistance should expire before degree completion: A veteran who has completed a minimum of one (1) academic year in good standing with the appropriate school and department, if applicable, who has not completed his/her degree program, and whose funding expires may receive a reduction of tuition, styled “partial or full tuition fellowship,” for the remainder of his/her degree program.

3. A grant of priority in registration and enrollment in academic classes during enrollment periods.

Passed—vote by acclimation