**Associated Student Government**

*University of Arkansas*

*ASG Senate Resolution No. 19*

Author(s): Senator Lizeth Martinez, Senator Gabriela Gifford, Senator Kate Sego, Senator Kevin Tran

Sponsor(s): Senator Cassidy Cook, Senator Daniel Webster, Senator Kianna Sarvestani

**A Resolution to Support The Implementation of A New Student Orientation Geared Towards Spanish-Speaking Heritages**

Whereas, The University of Arkansas Admissions Department annually hosts roughly twenty New Student Orientation sessions in English for new and transfer students during the summer, prior to their enrollment starting in August. There are three types of orientations offered: Honors two day, Traditional two day, and Traditional 1 day; and

Whereas, The purpose of New Student Orientation according to the University of Arkansas Admissions, is to allow students and their families to explore new ideas and concepts and learn how to stay involved. In addition to meeting with your advisor and choosing your first schedule of classes, New Student Orientation attendees will learn information about financial aid, campus activities, student life, and university history; and

Whereas, At New Student Orientation, there are a variety of “break out” sessions that include HOGS Abroad, Home Suite Home, It’s Greek to Me, and Money Matters: Treasurer’s Office. These “break out” sessions provide vital information about topics regarding the University of Arkansas; and

Whereas, Currently, all New Student Orientation Sessions are held only in English. There are approximately 27,778 students enrolled at the University of Arkansas as of Fall 2018, and there are about 2,076 Hispanic undergraduates. This is nearly 10% of the student body and approximately 500 Latinx students in each class; and

Whereas, As a University, it is necessary to allow adequate presentation efforts so that all future students that come to New Student Orientation are able to comprehend the information. The University of Florida, one of our benchmark institutions, offers handout information in Spanish to ensure this necessity; and

Be it therefore resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate supports New Student Orientation held by the University of Arkansas Office of Admissions to explore different opportunities of how to better develop New Student Orientation to allow Spanish-Speaking Heritages access to the same resources as other ethnicities and nationalities by offering orientation handout information, the New Student Orientation PowerPoint, and a question and answer “break out” session in Spanish; and

Be it further resolved: The authors of this legislation work with the Office of New Student Orientation to expand the resources available at New Student Orientations and ensure that all students and parents have equal access to any necessary information prior to the first day of classes at the University of Arkansas; and

Be it further resolved: A copy of this legislation be sent to Amber Roth, the Senior Associate Director of New Student Orientation, and Dr. Murphy-Erby, the Vice Chancellor of Diversity & Inclusion.

*Official Use Only*

Amendments:

Vote Count: Aye 44 Nay 1 Abstentions

Legislation Status: Passed Yes Failed Other

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Colman Betler, ASG Chair of the Senate Date

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J.P. Gairhan, ASG President Date