**Associated Student Government**

*University of Arkansas*

*ASG Senate Resolution No. 5*

Author(s): Senator Daniel Webster, Director of Municipal Relations Mariam Siddiqui, President JP Gairhan

Sponsor(s): Senator Hope Davenport, Senator Olivia Chambers, Senator Darynne Dahlem, Senator Ongalo Kidenda, Senator RayJ Jackson

**A Resolution to Support the Expansion of the Definition of Discrimination in The Code of Student Life and to Provide Reporting Resources**

Whereas, The 2018-2019 Code of Student Life states: “Discrimination against any member of the University community or visitor, or in connection with any University activity, through offensive behavior of a biased or prejudicial nature related to an individual’s personal characteristics, such as but not limited to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability, age or sexual orientation. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, conduct that violates the University’s policies prohibiting discrimination.”; and

Whereas, The University of Arkansas Code of Life outlines the different forms of violence, including but not limited to, physical abuse, dating violence/domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, but fails to mention discrimination except for once; and

Whereas, In the school year of 2017-2018 there was an instance of a student committing blackface and posting it to social media, causing students and faculty to become uncomfortable in the environment that it created and uncertain due to the lack of precise sanctions or conduct processes for a situation like this; and

Whereas, Chancellor Joe Steinmetz outlined his vision for the University of Arkansas in regards to diversity and inclusion by stating “In the years ahead, we will only further consolidate our position amongst the top universities serving minorities and strengthen our reputation as an inclusive and diverse institution serving every county of the state;” and

Whereas, the UAPD defines a hate crime as “the victim was intentionally selected because of the perpetrator’s bias against the victim. For the purposes of the Clery Act, the categories of bias that may serve as the basis for a determination that a crime is a hate crime would include the victim’s actual or perceived race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin, and disability;” and

Whereas, the UAPD reports on hate crimes annually; however, the Code of Student Life has no language on what constitutes as a hate crime; and

Whereas, Peer institutions like the University of Georgia, University of South Carolina, Ole Miss, University of Missouri and Vanderbilt, all include language in their code of conduct as well as have reporting guidelines on their website; and

Whereas, The University of Central Arkansas, Arkansas State University, Arkansas Tech University, University of Arkansas at Little Rock all include non-discrimination policies in their code of conduct as well as providing online resources for students, faculty, and staff; and

Whereas, Numerous bills presented in ASG in the past have supported diversity and inclusion; and

Whereas, The University of Arkansas’ Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance currently as a form for faculty and staff to report actions of discrimination; and

Whereas, Whereas, Arkansas ranks 8th in the nation for having the most hate groups (12) per capita via the Southern Poverty Law Center and Hate Crime Watch; then

Be it therefore resolved: That the Associated Student Government’s Senate urges the administration to redefine the Code of Student Life’s language on discrimination in Section B. Sub-section 7 to state “Conduct that is based upon an individual’s perceived or actual race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable state or federal law that: Negatively affects a term or condition of employment, education, living environment or participation in a University activity; or creates a hostile environment by being adequately severe or pervasive and objectively offensive that it interferes with, limits, or denies the ability to participate in or benefit from the University’s employment, educational programs, or activities;” and

Be it further resolved: The senate prompts the Code of Student Life also include examples of discrimination like the examples provided for sexual misconduct; and

Be it further resolved: That senate also urges the conduct office, UAPD, and the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance adapt the form currently available to be more student friendly and have more student oriented sections; then

Be it further resolved: That this resolution be sent to the Chancellor’s office, the Conduct office, UArelations, The Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance, and UAPD.

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Amendments:

Vote Count: Aye 43 Nay 2 Abstentions 1

Legislation Status: Passed X Failed­ Other

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Colman Betler, ASG Chair of the Senate Date

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JP Gairhan, ASG President Date