

1 **Associated Student Government**
2 *University of Arkansas*



3
4 *ASG Senate Resolution No. 12*

5 Author(s): Senator Abigail Hisler, Senator Gabrielle Gies, Senator Danny
6 Moreno, Senator Mary Eichenberger, ASG President-Elect Lauren Loften, ASG
7 Secretary-Elect Kara Grace Mirando
8 Sponsor(s): Senator Grace Wood

9

10 **A Resolution to Include EMPOWER Students in Senior Walk**

11

12 Whereas, EMPOWER – Educate, Motivate, Prepare, Opportunity,
13 Workplace Readiness, Employment, Responsibility – is a
14 four-year, non-degree college experience program for
15 students with cognitive disabilities that incorporates
16 functional academics, independent living, employment,
17 social/leisure skills, and health/wellness skills in public
18 university setting with the goal of producing self-sufficient
19 young adults, and

20

21 Whereas, EMPOWER students complete 120 hours of coursework
22 between EMPOWER-specific courses and regular, general
23 university courses. During the last two years of the program,
24 students work 10-20 hours per week at campus internships.
25 Students may live on campus, attend sporting events,
26 participate in campus activities, creating an equitable college
27 experience for students with cognitive disabilities, and

28

29 Whereas, EMPOWER students pay the same tuition and fees paid by
30 all undergraduate students, in addition to paying an
31 additional EMPOWER support fee of \$5,000 per semester,
32 and

33

34 Whereas, the EMPOWER program typically has between 4-6 graduates
35 per year and is not expected to ever have more than 25
36 students at a time, and

37

38 Whereas, over 300 other institutions across the country have inclusive
39 education programs similar to EMPOWER, and

40

41 Whereas, the EMPOWER program is unique among other non-degree,
42 certificate programs on campus in that its purpose is to
43 create an inclusive, near-equivalent college experience for
44 students with cognitive disabilities, and
45

46 Whereas, Senior Walk is the University of Arkansas’s longest standing
47 tradition, in place since 1905. This tradition is unique to the
48 University of Arkansas campus and creates a sense of
49 belonging among campus members, and
50

51 Whereas, EMPOWER students are not included in Senior Walk,
52 despite completing a college experience practically
53 equivalent to that of degree-seeking student with the
54 exception of accessibility adjustments and receipt of a
55 certificate rather than degree, and
56

57 Whereas, the University of Arkansas has made a goal to “create an
58 environment on campus where every member of the
59 university community feels welcomed and included and has
60 the same opportunities to be successful through equitable
61 policies and practices¹,” and
62

63 Whereas, exclusion of EMPOWER students from Senior Walk is a
64 discriminatory and non-inclusive practice that diminishes
65 belonging on campus, and
66

67 Whereas, an online petition to include EMPOWER students in Senior
68 Walk has received over 1,000 signatures, and
69

70 Whereas, the exclusion of EMPOWER students from Senior Walk is
71 unacceptable.
72

73 Be it therefore resolved: the Associated Student Government Senate
74 supports the expansion of Senior Walk to
75 include EMPOWER students, in order to

¹*Division of Diversity, equity and inclusion. Strategic Plan | Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion | University of Arkansas. (n.d.). Retrieved April 7, 2022, from <https://diversity.uark.edu/about-us/strategic-plan.php>*

76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94

improve the inclusion of EMPOWER students
on our campus.

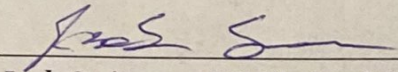
Be it finally resolved:

a copy of this resolution be sent to Interim
Chancellor Charles Robinson, Interim Vice
Chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of
Students Harwood-Rom, and Faculty Senate.

Amendments: _____

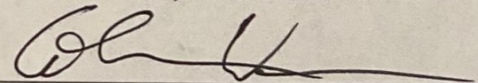
Vote Count: Aye 37 Nay 0 Abstentions 3

Legislation Status: Passed Failed _____ Other _____



Jack Switzer, ASG Chair of the Senate

04/25/2022
Date



Coleman Warren, ASG President

4/25/2022
Date