ASSOCIATED STUDENT GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

ASG JOINT RESOLUTION 1

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE STUDENT STATEMENT ON THE RIGHT TO RESEARCH

Authors: GSC Facilities Committee Chair Philip Gilley, Senator Will Watkins, and Senator Michael Sharp
Sponsors: GSC Secretary Mark Nabors, Senate Academics Chair Courtney Brooks, and Senators Justin Arnall, Colins Knight, and Rachel O'Neal

Because rigorous academic preparation necessitates learning and engaging in research, students need access to high-quality, peer-reviewed scholarly articles published in academic journals. All students, therefore, deserve access to the full body of published scholarly material.

At the University of Arkansas, access to scholarly literature is provided by subscriptions through the University of Arkansas libraries. These subscriptions can be costly; in some fields, the cost for a single year’s subscription to one journal may be as high as $20,000. These fees have accelerated at a rate greater than the rate of inflation. Yet authors of academic articles are not paid for their work. The increasing costs of journal subscriptions only serves to restrict access to knowledge. “The University Libraries are currently engaged in activities which support and encourage scholarship and research in an open environment, as embodied in this statement.”

Open Access is an alternative to the traditional, subscription-access system of scholarly communication. Open Access provides free online access to the results of scholarly research, while maintaining quality controls on research, such as the peer-review process. Several national and international student organizations and student governments have developed the Student Statement on the Right to Research in order to explain students’ interest in the scholarly communication system, and to rally students in support of Open Access (Statement found here: http://www.righttoresearch.org/about/statement/).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND GRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, FAYETTEVILLE,

That all students endorse the Student Statement on the Right to Research as well as Open Access to published academic research, and call on the University of Arkansas administration, government and research funding sources, researchers, and students to support access to high-quality academic research.
Official Use Only

Amendments: ________________________________________________________________

Vote Count: Aye _______ Nay _______ Abstentions _______

Legislation Status: Passed ______ Failed ______ Other _______

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Scout Johnson, ASG GSC Speaker Date

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Jace Motley, Chair of Senate Date

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Tanner Bone, ASG President Date