A Resolution to Support the Creation of a Centralized Research Opportunity Database

Whereas, research is an enriching and often necessary undergraduate experience for many students at the University of Arkansas, and

Whereas, research is required for all University of Arkansas honors students, and students with research experience are stronger candidates than those without when applying to graduate school, medical school, etc., and

Whereas, students who have research experience report a better understanding of graduate school (73%) and overall confidence in conducting research projects (88%), as well as novel interest in pursuing a PhD (29%). Research also provides opportunities to connect more easily with faculty and other students, directly apply classroom learning, and improve presentation skills, along with many other benefits, and

Whereas, in order to find research opportunities, students must browse faculty profiles across departmental pages or rely on personal connections to professors they may have in class or other word-of-mouth communication, and

Whereas, this process is not equitable and accessible for all students and creates barriers, and

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Whereas, many research projects require student participants for data. These study opportunities are shared sporadically, such as direct emails or announcements in the Arkansas Newswire instead of an organized, consistent posting system, and

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has limited the amount of interactions between professors and students and both groups have expressed difficulty finding research opportunities/assistants, and

Whereas, a central research opportunity database would benefit students and professors by making research more accessible and equitable, and

Whereas, several other benchmark institutions such as University of Alabama, University of Florida, University of Kentucky, Clemson University, and Texas A&M University already have databases for open research assistant positions such as this in place.

Be it therefore resolved: the Associated Student Government Senate supports the creation of a centralized research opportunity database to make research more accessible to students and faculty. The database will be housed under the Office of Undergraduate Research and will include research profiles and open opportunities to help students begin their research journey.

Be it further resolved: the database allow professors to post research studies and surveys in need of participants for data collection.

Be it further resolved: the authors of this legislation work with the Office of Undergraduate Research and university administration to create the database as well as inform students and faculty on how to utilize it.

Be it finally resolved: A copy of this legislation be sent to Faculty Senate.

Amendments:
Vote Count:  Aye _________  Nay _________  Abstentions _______

Legislation Status:  Passed _______  Failed _______  Other ____________

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Jack Switzer, ASG Chair of the Senate  Date

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Coleman Warren, ASG President  Date