Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

ASG Senate Resolution No. 19
Author(s): Senator Hope Davenport, Deputy Director of Diversity and Inclusion
Alex Alvarez
Sponsor(s): Senator Colton Simpson

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC
ISLANDER COMMUNITY IMPACTED BY HEIGHTED HATE CRIMES
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RECENT MASS SHOOTING

Whereas, the population of the State of Arkansas is estimated to be
3,017,804 as of July 1, 2019, 1.7% are of Asian ethnicity alone,
0.4% are of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander ethnicity
alone, and 2.2% are of Two or More Races\(^2\) all of whom are a vital
part of the vibrant community; and

Whereas, the University of Arkansans is comprised of 25,847 total students
as of Spring 2021, 4,614 of which are graduate or professional
students, 711 of which are of Asian ethnicity, 24 of which are
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander ethnicity, and 1,091 of which are of
Two or More Races\(^3\) each one of them is an integral part of our
community and provide invaluable contributions to the research
and scholarship that has allowed us to maintain Research One
status\(^3\) and to the overall community in Northwest Arkansas; and

Whereas, on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (W.H.O)
declared a public health emergency of international concern\(^4\) for
an unknown disease later to be named COVID-19 and declared a
pandemic on March 11, 2020\(^5\); and

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\(^1\) https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/AR

\(^2\) https://oir.uark.edu/students/enrollment-reports/2021-spring-summary.pdf

\(^3\) https://news.uark.edu/articles/45722/u-of-a-retains-national-classification-as-having-very-high-research-activity

\(^4\) https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-timeline.htm

Whereas, during the subsequent months following the announcement of the pandemic, folks of Asian and Pacific Islander became the target of violent and aggressive hate crimes as well as racist slurs including racist statements made popular by the 45th President of the United States; and

Whereas, on March 16, 2021, the hate crimes escalated and eight people were shot to death at three massage parlors in Atlanta, Georgia, of which six were of Asian descent and of which all but one were women; so

Be it therefore resolved: ASG Senate urges all members of the University of Arkansas community to prioritize the well-being of all minoritized groups such as people from Asian and Pacific Islanders descent because of their vulnerability to the non-fact-based, xenophobic, and racist attacks due to the pandemic; and

Be it further resolved: that the ASG Senate will improve awareness and support for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders by advocating and creating programming to highlight the unique perspective and the strength that diverse cultures bring to the community.

Be it finally resolved: This resolution be sent to Chancellor Joe Steinmetz, Inclusion Liaison Anthony DiNicola, Vice Chancellor for Governmental and Community Relations Randy Massanelli, and Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Yvette Murphy-Erby upon passage.

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Amendments: 

Vote Count: Aye 37  Nay 0  Abstentions 2

Legislation Status: Passed X  Failed  Other

Caleb Parker, ASG Chair of the Senate

Julia Nall, ASG President

4/20/21  Date