Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

ASG Senate Resolution No. 21
Author(s): Senator Sophie Hill, Senator Jack Switzer
Sponsor(s): Senator Gabi Gies, Senator Maddie Jones, Senator Matthew Pollard,
Senator Colton Simpson, Senator Hope Davenport, Senator Max
Sutton, Senator Hunter Simmons, Senator Kaitlyn Smythe, Senator
Triston Apperson, Senator Terah Bryson

A Resolution to Remove Racist Affiliated Legacies at the University of
Arkansas on School Property

Whereas, Chancellor Joe Steinmetz asserted during the wake of the
Black Lives Matter movement in summer 2020 via a
university-wide email, "racist acts have no place on our
campus or in the world. And as long as they exist, we will
never have a truly inclusive campus. We all have a role to
play in stopping racist and discriminatory activities.
Everyone needs to understand what we stand for as a
campus and that we will not tolerate actions that violate our
commitment to a safe, equitable, inclusive, non-
discriminatory and anti-racist campus," yet the university
still continues to uphold the legacies of racist alumni via
statues and the names of buildings and colleges on campus.¹

Whereas, Former Governor Charles Brough is known for his
involvement in the 1919 Elaine Race Riot, in which federal
troops, accompanied by Brough, massacred over 200 Black
residents of Phillips County, and²

Whereas, The University of Arkansas Education Association/Local 965
passed a resolution calling for the University of Arkansas,
Fayetteville to change the name of what is currently known
as Charles Hillman Brough Commons to the Wiley A.
Branton Sr. Commons, a highly regarded civil rights attorney
and University of Arkansas alumnus.³

¹ University of Arkansas email from Chancellor Joe Steinmetz on June 17th, 2020.
³ Ibid, Brantley (2020).
Whereas, Despite the recommendations from the UAEA, the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville has neglected to rename the commons building.

Whereas, In 1956 Former Senator J. W. Fulbright signed the “Southern Manifesto”, a document that condemned the Supreme Court’s declaration of segregated schools was unconstitutional, and

Whereas, Former Senator J. W. Fulbright voted against the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and led a 60-day filibuster against the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and

Whereas, On June 15th, the Black Student Caucus at the University of Arkansas issued a demand for the University of Arkansas to remove the statue of J. W. Fulbright, his name from the college of liberal arts and sciences and for the Charles Brough Dining Hall to be renamed, and

Whereas, On March 13th, the Black Student Caucus held an anti-racist protest centering around support for the removal of J.W. Fulbright’s namesake from the university, including his statue and the renaming of the Charles Brough Dining Hall, and

Whereas, In early October, the University of Arkansas created a committee consisting of both students and staff members dedicated to addressing the presence of J.W. Fulbright and Charles Brough on campus. Though the committee intended to meet during the fall semester and accepted feedback from students through November 1st of 2020, the University of Arkansas has yet to release their decision after the 7-month long process.  

Whereas, Other universities have laid precedent for removing racist alumni figures from their campuses when prompted by

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4 Theo Lippman Jr., “Two Tragic flaws kept Arkansas Sen. J......,” Baltimore Sun, February 16, 1995,

5 Teresa Watanabe, Tomás Mier, “USC removes name of former president Rufus Von Kleinsmid a supporter of eugenics from prominent building,” Los Angeles Times, June 12, 2020

students. Within one month of the beginnings of the Black Lives Matter protests, Princeton University quickly removed Woodrow Wilson’s namesake from the policy school and residence college meeting students’ demands.\(^7\)

Whereas, The University of Southern California removed the namesake of their former president, Rufus von KleinSmid, from various buildings on campus because of his leadership role within the white supremacy focused eugenics movement in California. This removal was in response to students’ demands and protests in the summer of 2020.\(^8\)

Whereas, During June of 2020, Western Carolina University removed Clyde Hoey’s name from the campus auditorium due to his opposition to racial integration while he served as governor.\(^9\)

Be it therefore resolved: The University of Arkansas adhere to their previously stated mission to support the “campus community in taking positive action that fosters safety, belonging, justice, equity, and peace.”\(^{10}\)

Be it further resolved: To remain consist with the expressions regarding diversity and inclusion, the University of Arkansas remove J.W. Fulbright’s name from the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, and allow matters of renaming the college to be up to the discretion of the university administration and Board of Trustees, and

\(^8\)Ibid, Watanabe (2020)
\(^{10}\)“Message Regarding Disturbing Video,” Vice Chancellor Dr. Yvette Murphy-Erby, University of Arkansas Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, https://diversity.uark.edu/news-stories/statements.php
Be it further resolved: The University of Arkansas remove the statue of J.W. Fulbright and relocate it from campus grounds to a location decided upon by the university administration and Board of Trustees, and

Be it further resolved: remove Charles Brough’s name from the dining commons and rename the building the Wiley A. Branton Sr. Commons, as previously recommended by the University of Arkansas Education Association.

Be it further resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate supports the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville in continuing discussions regarding the legacies of these prominent figures in a constructive manner that does not cause direct harm to the student body, staff, and faculty.

Be it finally resolved: A copy of this legislation will be sent to Chancellor Joe Steinmetz, Provost Charles Robinson, Dean of Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences Todd Shields, Dean of Admissions Suzanne McCray, Board of Trustees Chairman Stephen Broughton, Vice President of Dining Operations Andrew Lipson, Vice Chancellor of Diversity and Inclusion Yvette Murphy-Erby

Amendments: _________________________

Vote Count: Aye 33  Nay 0  Abstentions  6

Legislation Status: Passed _X_  Failed _____  Other _______

Caleb Parker, ASG Chair of the Senate  4/20/2021  Date

Julia Nall, ASG President  4/20/21  Date