A Resolution Supporting the Expansion of the Grade Forgiveness Policy in the Wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Whereas, Current University of Arkansas Grade Forgiveness Policy allows students to fill out a Grade Forgiveness Petition Form, which allows students to improve their undergraduate cumulative GPA by repeating a maximum of 9 credit hours in which a grade of "D" or "F" was received and requesting that the repeat grade be the only one counted in the final GPA calculation; and

Whereas, Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students across campus are having to deal with unprecedented and unexpected alterations in campus life such as online classes, lack of peer motivation, and fear/reality of infection that may prevent them from performing to the best of their academic ability; and

Whereas, An expanded policy could allow students the opportunity to improve their GPA, which would have many benefits such as a higher cumulative GPA, a better chance of admission into graduate schools, and improving the reputation of the University of Arkansas nationally; and

Whereas, Many other universities such as Louisiana State University, Auburn University, The University of Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State University allow up to 12 or more credit hours in their Grade Exclusion Policies; and

Whereas, The COVID-19 Pandemic is temporary, meaning that students are likely to do better academically once regular classes resume and campus life is restored; and
Whereas, It is unfair to have student GPAs be permanently affected by an unprecedented, rapid change in educational methods and style of learning that did not affect prior graduates; and

Be it therefore resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate recommends that the University of Arkansas consider expanding the Grade Forgiveness Policy to allow up to 12 credit hours of Grade Forgiveness for students who attended classes at the University during which the COVID-19 Pandemic was active; and

Be it further resolved: The policy still only permits students to recover "D" and "F" grades, but will allow each student to earn a higher cumulative GPA by helping to negate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on academics; and

Be it finally resolved: That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor.

Amendments: ____________________________  ____________________________

Vote Count: Aye  41   Nay  5   Abstentions  2

Legislation Status:  Passed  X   Failed   Other  __________

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Caleb Parker, ASG Chair of the Senate  Date

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Julia Nall, ASG President  Date