Associated Student Government

University of Arkansas

ASG Senate Resolution No. 6

Author(s): Senate Academics Committee and Director of Academic Affairs, Stephanie Verdaris

Sponsor(s): Senator Sarah Dallas, Senator Mary Eichenberger, Senator John Richards, Senator Grace Wood

A Resolution to Waive In-Person Attendance Requirement and Replace COVID-19 Academic Flexibility Request Form

Whereas, COVID-19 has continued to persist across the country and on college campuses across the United States, with no indication of a vaccine becoming available in the near future; and

Whereas, COVID-19 has prompted the University of Arkansas to offer increased remote-delivery and hybrid options for courses, while not requiring in-person attendance; and

Whereas, COVID-19 has required students to adapt their living and learning situations due to concerns of physical, mental, and financial health, which may include living off-campus in other states; and

Whereas, the Provost recently issued an announcement for the spring semester that faculty would be able to require in-person attendance; and

Whereas, students may fill out the COVID-19 Academic Flexibility Request form to opt out of mandatory in-person attendance; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 Academic Flexibility Request form only allows students with medical concern of self or other to apply for an exemption; and

Whereas, students should have the right to attend class remotely solely due to personal safety concern; and
Whereas, the COVID-19 Academic Flexibility Request form does not guarantee that any student can opt-out of in-person attendance, only that they will be considered; and

Be it therefore resolved: The Associated Student Government supports a motion to waive the mandatory in-person requirements and replace the COVID-19 Academic Flexibility Request form for next semester; and

Be it further resolved: The COVID-19 Academic Flexibility Request form be replaced on a course-by-course basis with a form provided by individual faculty if a course is offered synchronously. If a class has sections offered asynchronously, the faculty member will not have to send out the form; and

Be it further resolved: The new form sent by individual faculty must allow students to opt out of in-person attendance solely based on personal safety concerns without the requirement of supporting documents; and

Be it further resolved: Students may choose in-person attendance for some classes and remote delivery for others on the basis of class size and corresponding comfortability of the student; and

Be it further resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate supports that students can opt out of in-person classes at any point in the semester and communicate this option to their instructor; and

Be it finally resolved: A copy of this legislation be sent to Provost Charles Robinson, Chancellor Joe Steinmetz, and Faculty Senate.

Amendments: ________________________________________________________________

Vote Count: Aye 43    Nay 0    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