**Associated Student Government**

*University of Arkansas*

*ASG Joint Resolution No. 10*

Authors: Senator Trevor Villines, Senator Blake Flemister, Senator Parker Massanelli, Senator Moses Agare, Senator Spencer Bone, and GSC Secretary Garrett Jeter

Sponsors: FLF Coordinator Kyle Ward, Senator Kevin Sacks, Senator Riley McGill, Deputy Treasurer Colin Gonzalez, Senator Courtney Brooks, Director of Razorback Readership Abigail Walker, Senator Blake Barron, Chief of Staff Taylor Farr, Senator Brandon Davis, Senator Jesse Kloss, OFA Board Member Jalen Hemphill, Senator Dani Zapata, Director of Veterans Affairs Triston Cross, FLF Member Marc Aranibar, Senator Ashley Goodwin, FLF Member Samia Ismail, Senator Colman Betler, Senator Abby Sikes, Chair of Senate Will Watkins, ASG Vice President Maggie Benton, and ASG President Connor Flocks

**Arkansas Union Improvement Act of 2017**

Whereas, A College Union’s presence at an institution of higher learning is quintessential in providing a rich community experience and information and opportunities to those who encompass the institution’s culture, so that their curricular and extracurricular objectives can be achieved; and

Whereas, It has been known that the Chancellor’s Guiding Priority Task Force initial report[[1]](#footnote-2), of February 23, 2017, identifies as part of Phase III of the implementation plan of investment in infrastructure; which emphasizes enhancement of student engagement, stating that active engagement in student life leads to higher retention rates; and

Whereas, Unlike many other Arkansas institutions, SEC institutions, and peer institutions, The University of Arkansas Union has not recently had any significant improvements since the year 1998[[2]](#footnote-3); and

Whereas, The University of Arkansas has had some improvements to the building such as new furniture, upgraded HVAC to some areas, and upgraded audio/video to some areas; and

Whereas, The University of Arkansas Union receives over 10,000 reservations per year. This figure includes everything from small tables outside in the union mall, to big conferences that use the Verizon Ballroom and the connections lounge. The building receives foot traffic under 3 million per year, making it the building with the heaviest foot traffic at the University of Arkansas; and

Whereas, Memorial Hall served as the Union from the 1940s until the 1960s. Then in 1973 the Union was constructed, and the Union moved out of Memorial Hall. When the expansion to the Union was made in 1998, student population was around 15,000. As student population, has increased 78 percent, 0 square footage has been added to the present student union; and

Whereas, The University of Arkansas last made significant improvements to the Arkansas Union in 1998 with an expansion. Prior to the 1998 expansion the student union was 167,000 square feet, while upon completion of the expansion, square footage rose to 224,000 square feet. The construction cost for expanding the Arkansas Union was $12,000,000; and

Whereas, The University of Arkansas funded construction with an increase in student fees proposed at $2.00 per credit hour per student, and up to 12 hours per semester. Unlike many other state institutions at the time, the University of Arkansas valued student opinion and a referendum was required to approve the student fee increase. Fifty percent of the costs of construction came from Union Operating Revenue, thirty-five from administration, and fifteen percent from a student fee. Chuck Welch who served as the president of the Associated Student Government at the time advocated for the vote; and

Whereas, The ACUI, Association of College Unions International, recommends that every College Union/College Center have in upwards of 10 square feet per enrolled students. Currently the University of Arkansas has an enrollment of 25,382, and the size of the Arkansas Union is 224,000 square feet. Based on these figures the University of Arkansas Union does not meet ACUI standards, as the approximate square footage would need to be 253,820 square feet; and

Whereas, Currently the Arkansas Union has a few student use spaces, and houses 24 departments such as the Union Connections Lounge, Living Room, Club Red, Au Bon Pain, Freshens, Chick-Fil-A, World Market, True Burger, The Wok, Mondo Subs, Papa Johns, Flying Burrito, Union Information Center, Union Administration Offices, Union Event Services, Campus Card Office, Center for Community Engagement, Center for Educational Access, Center for Multicultural & Diversity Education, New Student & Family Programs, Off-Campus Student Services, Office of Academic Initiatives and Integrity, Office of Student Activities, Associated Student Government, Registered Student Organization Office Space & Workshop, University Programs, Student Affairs Business Services, Student Technology Center, Treasurer’s Office & Student Accounts, UA Productions, University Career Development Center, University Recreation Fitness Center, and the Veterans Resource & Information Center; then

Be it therefore resolved: On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff, The Associated Student Government at the University of Arkansas requests that the administration consider improvements for our current Arkansas Union and consider adopting and implementing a new revolutionized and *uncommon* Arkansas Union for the future; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Associated Student Government would like to provide convenient financial services with a bank housed within the Student Union; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Associated Student Government requests a larger area for an increased number of microwaves, as not all students may be able to afford to purchase food on campus; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Union, it would be beneficial to expand bookstore and office supply sales in the Union for student convenience; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Union, such improvements could include space for a meditation/prayer room, schedulable for RSOs and available to all organizations and individual students regardless of spiritual beliefs; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Associated Student Government requests additional storage space, closed office space for TAs, dedicated lobby space/waiting area for those visiting the ASG office, windows to see outside, office space made available for every member of ASG Exec and leadership, a chamber room made available for use by Senate/GSC/Judicial/FLF (When not used by ASG, made available for RSOs to use as meeting space), and office space for cabinet members;

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, Registered Student Organizations would be allocated additional workspace, more coloration areas, meeting space, centralized locker storage, and additional offices; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to Arkansas Union, the Arkansas Union Administration requests additional storage space for the entire facility, more common lounge space, and better connectivity between the east and west side; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Office of Student Activities requests that there be additional storage space, additional office space, more natural lighting, outlets with USB adapters, and suites equipped with a centralized thermostat; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Office of University Programs requests that there be additional storage space, room allocated for programming, promotional space, more TV advertising located throughout the Union, and additional office space; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Volunteer Action Center requests to have additional office space, a more centralized location to learn for students to learn about volunteering, and better after-hours access; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Campus Card Office requests to have more office space, which currently is crowded, and a larger area for passport and ID photography and processing; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Arkansas Union Information Center requests a new floor, which is cracked, and third-floor annex restroom improvements, which are insufficiently ADA-compliant; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Student Technology Center requests to have larger space for its digital media lab, which currently experiences a significant amount of usage from the student population for academic projects; an area for E-Sports; more and upgraded digital media, high graphically intensive equipment, and recording devices, all of which are outdated; and an area for a virtual reality center, specifically three 10 x 10 rooms; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Center for Multicultural & Diversity Education requests to have more staff office space due to hiring of more personnel and crowding in offices, more resource space, more storage area, and more social/study areas as part of its mission to serve underrepresented groups such as first-generation and minority students; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, Graduate Students requests to have shared office spaces for the Graduate Student Congress (GSC) officers, a separate office for the GSC Speaker, a GSC specific front desk/ waiting area, and GSC communal work space; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Center for Community Engagement requests more office space and accessibility to students, as they want to have more resources to reach out to more students to get people involved; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Center for Educational Access requests an expanded meeting area with learning disability technologies, a testing facility, and common area with bigger front office space for the secretary and filling out paperwork; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Office of New Student & Family Programs requests more office space/storage and common areas, and places to have meetings one on one with people that are struggling on campus to find what they want to do at the university; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Treasurer’s Office & Student Actions requests a more centralized location with the Office of Financial Aid, Registrar’s Office, and office of admissions, additional storage space, additional office space, and a redesign of the cashier area; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the University Career Development Center requests more places where they can conduct team-building workshops along with interview rooms to help simulate an interview for a job; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Office of Off-Campus Student Services requests to have a renovation of their “Commuter Lounge” as adding additional space would help accommodate the large amount of students who reside in the lounge, an addition of a sink or kitchen area in this space as a result of the high volume of occupants around lunchtime, a reorganization of their wing in the Union as it would better utilize the space for both their office and the other departments contained within that wing, and as storage is a major issue for them they requests having a designated storage space; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Office of Academic Initiatives and Integrity requests a small conference room because of the vast amount of cases they handle which must be protected by FERPA laws, and another office in order to hire additional staff to help combat their ever-increasing workload; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, UA Productions requests more electrical outlets, and more storage space for their equipment; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the University Recreation Fitness Center requests to have additional space for lockers as these lockers would be much larger than those currently in use, a more expansive weight area containing more dumbbells, and the installation of free weight racks; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, space would be allocated for the lockers to be used by students and faculty. Lockers could be used for storage such as scooter helmets; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Union Theatre would receive a complete audio/visual upgrade; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the UP Theatre would receive an upgrade to make it more ADA accessible; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Union Meeting Rooms 507/511 & 512/514 would receive a complete integrated audio/video upgrade; and

If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, space would be allocated for additional meeting rooms; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the Verizon Ballroom would receive a brand-new floor, new lighting, audio/video upgrade, a new ceiling to complement the floor; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the food court would receive a complete makeover, and additional food retailers; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, the loading dock would be extensively redesigned and expanded to properly serve all students, faculty & staff at the University of Arkansas; and

Be it further resolved: If improvements are made to the Arkansas Union, space would be allocated for a large lecture hall capable of hosting large events such as those hosted by the Distinguished Lecture Committee, whereas most DLC lectures are hosted off campus at the Fayetteville Town Center as the University of Arkansas is incapable of hosting such a large event with the current facilities; and

Be it finally resolved: This legislation will be presented immediately to the Chancellor, the Provost, the Vice Provost, Vice Chancellor, the Dean of Students, and the Board of Trustees

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Amendments:

Vote Count: Aye Nay Abstentions

Legislation Status: Passed Failed­ Other

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Will Watkins, ASG Chair of the Senate Date

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Scout Johnson, Speaker –Graduate Student Congress Date

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Connor Flocks, ASG President Date

**ENDORSEMENT CLAUSE**: In addition to the authorship and sponsorship sections, ll. 5-17 above, this legislation has received the endorsement of Mr. Rob Stagni, Director of the Arkansas Union.

1. http://chancellor.uark.edu/campus-strategic-planning- process/index.php [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. See Appendix I [↑](#footnote-ref-3)