Associated Student Government
University of Arkansas

ASG Senate Resolution No. 8
Author(s): ASG Chair of Senate Kianna Sarvestani, Senator Cassidy Cook

A Resolution to Support the Expansion of the Student Union

Whereas, The Arkansas Student Union was opened in 1973 and is housed in the center of campus on Garland Street.

Whereas, This space is defined on the Arkansas Union website as the “living room of campus, welcoming all those who find within.”

Whereas, The Union is home to over twenty-five departments, restaurants, retail stores and student study space.

Whereas, It is home to a plethora of meeting spaces including the Verizon Ballroom which is an event space able to host up to 600 people. In addition, the Union has a satellite fitness facility that is over 1,500 square foot including locker rooms and exercise rooms.

Whereas, Since the opening in 1973 the building has not undergone a total renovation.

Whereas, The recent renovation opened 21 years ago in 1998 and the bond supporting that project expires in 2023.

Whereas, Various locations have seen facelifts and upgrades including but not limited to the Union Food Court which was completing in August of 2018.

Whereas, It is the role of the Associated Student Government Senate to advocate and speak on behalf of students wishes.
Whereas, In 2016-17 academic year the Associate Student Government passed a Joint Resolution titled the Arkansas Union Improvement Act of 2017. In this resolution a variety of suggestions were made on what ASG Senate believes should be included in the new student union.

Whereas, The recommendations in the Joint Resolution included greater office space for ASG, an increase in meeting spaces for RSO’s, a prayer room, mediation room and a chamber room that would be used for ASG Senate as well as other additional RSO who might desire such chamber, greater space for the Multicultural Center and Campus Card Office, improvements to the Center for Community Engagement office and much more.

Whereas, In 2017-18 academic year a joint resolution titled “Arkansas Union Food Court Expansion Act” was passed. This resolution was used to outline the Associated Student Government Senate support of students desire to see improvements to the Arkansas Union Food Court and specific request that were gathered to provide suggestions on the renovations of Food Court to Chartwells and the Arkansas Union.

Whereas, The union employed outside consultants to conduct a feasibility study during 2018 to gather responses and information from departments/groups that are housed in the union.

Whereas, The goal of the outside consultants was to propose possible expansion efforts that were student focused, provided design clarity, promoted school identity, fostered diversity and inclusion, and increased adaptability of the space.

Whereas, The feasibility study by the outside consultants concluded that the expansion efforts would be appropriate and provided a potential plan for phases of the expansion project.

Be it therefore resolved: Associated Student Government Senate supports administrators’ efforts of the expansion of the Arkansas Student Union and encourages a partnership between student leaders and administration to determine the greatest needs of students.
Be it further resolved: The Associate Student Government Senate promotes the addition of study spaces for students, expansion of the ASG office, construction of a chamber room, increase RSO meeting space, expansion of the Verizon Ballroom, connection of all floors of the union, any efforts to increase handicap accessibility, expansion of the UREC, and the student technology center.

Be it further resolved: The Associated Student Government Senate encourages collaborate efforts between students and administrators on furthering the results of the feasibility study and exploring further expansion efforts.

Be it finally resolved: A copy of this legislation be sent to Director of Arkansas Union Rob Stagani, Chancellor Joe Steinmetz and the Union Advisory Committee.

Amendments: __________________________________________

Vote Count: Aye __50__  Nay _0_  Abstentions ______

Legislation Status: Passed X  Failed _____  Other __________

Kianna Sarvestani, ASG Chair of the Senate Date

Jared Pinkerton, ASG President Date 12-5-2014