

Faculty Senate Resolution
On
Access to University Enrollment and Graduation Data
And
Receipt of Relevant Rulings from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education

Whereas the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) discontinued A-State's B.S. in multimedia journalism (MMJ) for failure to graduate an average of at least 6 students per year during a 3-year assessment period (2018 – 2020) and during the 2 years following (2021-2022);

Whereas AHECB has assessed most non-STEM bachelor's programs on the above average since 2010 but regularly deferred closure of programs below the viability threshold prior to its April 28, 2023, meeting;

Whereas AHECB has tacitly indicated they seem intent on rigorous enforcement of these viability standards in the future;

Whereas the faculty in MMJ and the Director of the School of Media and Journalism were never officially informed, before 2023, that MMJ was formally deemed non-viable by the AHECB and ADHE after the 2018-2020 cycle and subsequently placed under a 2-year period when the department was expected to increase its number of graduates;

Whereas curriculum, accreditation, and research are all part of the purview of the faculty at A-State; and

Whereas A-State faculty have consistently been unable to obtain relevant data in a timely manner; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the University commit to providing the resources and data for faculty to be empowered to fulfill their duties, including but not limited to teaching, research, service, and administrative tasks and be it further

Resolved that the University ensures that any and all relevant rulings from AHECB/ADHE, within the purview of faculty responsibility (such as program viability decisions) be disseminated to faculty at the time any such rulings may be created, and that such communications are clearly documented with respect to time and recipients (i.e. Deans, Directors and Department Chairs) and be it further

Resolved that the University design a process for faculty to easily find data without having to request it from administration, including, but not limited to, current semester degree/major enrollment, where the degree/program is in the ADHE program viability cycle, and demographics of current and former students in a program or major, and be it further

Resolved that the Faculty Senate work with administration to develop policy, procedures, and resources to ensure that this relevant data is freely available on demand.