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**From the desk of President Erika Tuck**

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The SGA President vetoes SR 19/20-04, Resolution to request a University announcement to eliminate “Jumpin’ Joe Indian” and embrace the Red Wolf on campus and in our surrounding community, in accordance with Article 1 section 5 clause 4. The President, Vice President, and other members of Staff fully support the Red Wolf mascot and respect and honor Alumni and the A-State mascots of the past. The University has fully integrated the Red Wolf mascot throughout our campus design, merchandise, and sports games. The community of Jonesboro proudly paints their business windows with Howl and Scarlet wolf. There are restaurants in town who have named dishes after our university and our mascot. The University and community are all proud to be a Redwolf and our Alumni are proud to be what was the past and what is now. The student body reflects those sentiments as well.

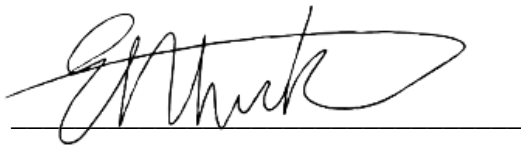
The SGA is nonpolitical and SR 19/20-04 becomes political when it makes discriminatory assertions. As stated in the Preamble of the SGA Constitution, the responsibilities of this organization is to “strive toward higher academic standards, promote democratic principles, foster close cooperation between students and faculty, encourage worthy projects in the interest of the student body, and serve the general welfare of our institution.”

Second, the issue has already been addressed and dealt with over a decade ago. The school changed its mascot to the Red Wolves in 2008 and claims that as its mascot in every way. Denouncing Jumpin’ Joe is just as superfluous as denouncing our other previous mascots such as the Gorillas and the Aggies. In 2007, the Mascot Review Committee of the university recognized the need for an “honorable, official retirement” of the previous mascot and imagery. At that time the resolution was adopted, the “University desires to ensure an atmosphere of sensitivity and respect for all its students, faculty, staff, and other constituencies” The main objective of the SGA is to serve the general interest of the student body. SR 19/20-04 goes far beyond the scope

of SGA because it raises a social issue that exceeds the authority and capability of this organization.

Third, SGA is the voice of the student body and this resolution does not reflect how the student body feels about Jumpin' Joe. Students continue to purchase Jumpin' Joe clothing and other products with the logo on it. They even continue to support the businesses that carry Jumpin' Joe products with the purchase of other commodities such as textbooks and other school supplies. Arkansas State however does not own or profit from the logo. The question is why are students who never were Indians, who barely could remember that as a mascot, who have always been Red Wolves, trying to wear a logo that has been deemed hurtful? The intention of sporting the logo is rooted in honoring and appreciating the heritage of the university and a way to connect past and future alumni of Arkansas State University. That should be the Red Wolf, and no other.

Finally, by requesting to "eliminate" this logo we are exceeding our authority. The issue is not with the university, it is with stores who sell the Jumpin' Joe logo. Speaking with local business owners would be the appropriate first step to further understand this topic.



Erika Tuck, President

Date: 3-9-20