

SGA Passes A New Bill For A "Holistic" Admission Process

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The Arkansas State University Student Government Association passed a new bill at Tuesday's meeting to change the university's admission standards to boost enrollment.

The bill creates a different approach to being admitted as an A-State student. Other universities in Arkansas provide a second pathway that A-State did not have before passing the bill. The idea is to take a more "holistic" approach to the admission process.

The bill read: "Whereas, the need for a holistic admission process, especially with minority and low-income students to provide students admitted with pack support (students admitted under the holistic pathway) with tools for success including a student support assistant for each college to work with students 'admitted with Pack Support.'"

University Administration reached out to members of SGA about now having a "second pathway" for those applying to A-State. Using data from the past school year, the bill proposed new adjusted requirements for the admission process for the 2023-2024 school year.

The bill titled "A resolution to co-sponsor the pilot study and modifications to existing procedures in relation to the admission process of Arkansas State University" was sponsored by Colten Sedman, Carlee Bird, Maddyson Lamb, Lindsey Waters, Kennedy Combs, Catherine Hernandez, and Erica Morales.

According to data provided, out of the 224 freshmen who were denied admission to A-State, 215 would have been admitted to the University of Arkansas based on their holistic admission process.

One of the Senators who voted in opposition of the bill was Brandon Turnbull due to concerns with the proposed standards.

"My concern is that we're lowering the standard so low. What type of university will we be in years to come if the quality of students here is so low and not relatively high? The University of Arkansas has higher retention rates than we do, so I don't know that lowering is necessary," Turnbull said.

"We feel it is very similar to the second pathway a majority of the other schools offer," Senator Sedman, Chief of Staff, said in response. "If we're a university that they (incoming students) want to go to and we're able to provide them with the resources, they should have just as fair a chance to come here as to the University



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A-State Student Government Association meetings are open to the public and held every other Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in Delta Center Room 201.

of Arkansas or the University of Central Arkansas."

As stated in the bill: "Introduction/modification of Arkansas State's admission process will invite more students to our campus that would otherwise deter them from other competing Universities."

"Current students may not see as much of the impact this year, however, for next year, this pilot will truly yield results with students in the community and around the state," Sedman said.

To help these new students,

as first-years they would be required to meet with an assigned support assistant weekly. When they become sophomores and juniors, they must check in monthly. These assistants are part of the college the student is enrolled in.

"A point I wanted to make is I know a lot of you have been with a 4.0-grade point average but when I came to college I dropped down a little bit. My sister at a much lower GPA and lower ACT did much better in college than I did," Carlee

Bird SGA President said.



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OPINION, 2A



- The Problem With Senator Grahm's Abortion Bill
- What Is Greenwashing And Why is it an Issue?
- Rapid-Fire Opinions

NEWS, 3A



- Overview Of Homecoming Week Activities
- Debate Team Co-Captains Lead Team To First Tournament Of The Season
- Campus Crime

NEWS, 4A

- "Gruesome Playground Injuries" Opens
- This Week's Crossword Puzzle

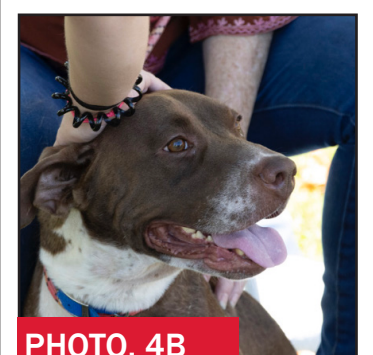
LIFE B1

- Why Do People Want to Study in the States?
- Club Spotlight: Chess Club
- This Week's Pop Pick
- Horoscopes

SPORTS, B2 & B3



- What The Red Wolves Can Do To Win On Homecoming
- Tailgating Package for Both Home Games Against ULM And James Madison
- Upcoming Events Calendar



PHOTO, 4B

- A-State Doing Their Part In Helping

A-State Makes Security Improvements With New Cameras and Lighting

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NEWS EDITOR

Arkansas State University is now more than halfway complete with its six phase campus improvement plan with the completion of the third and fourth phases of the project.

According to an A-State press release "New lighting in the parking lots for first-year students in Kays Hall, University Hall and along Marion Berry Parkway was completed and activated. Additional surveillance cameras will also be added in this corner of campus."

In addition, new lighting and cameras have been added to the Centennial Stadium parking lot. These will be activated by A-State's next home game on Saturday.

The project first began in 2016, when the Student Government Association approached campus leadership with the initiative to help students feel safer on campus.

"During that campus walk through, we identified places where we needed to raise the canopy and cut away trees or limbs and places where we needed to add lighting," said Dr. Len

Frey, executive vice chancellor for finance administration and chief operating officer. "That really prompted us to put together a plan to not only address those issues, but other safety issues over time."

The entire project is projected to cost \$2.6 million. The lighting and cameras near Kays Hall and University Hall cost \$618,142. The Centennial Stadium section will cost \$245,159.

"Back in 2020, we created a specific safety fee. We've utilized that fee to provide some of the revenue, but we've also used other sources of revenue," Frey said. "We've also funded it out of our maintenance budget and we've been funding as we go. We're able to put about \$700,000 a year toward these upgrades."

The new lighting is also meant to be more environmentally conscious. The old bulbs were incandescent, while the new ones are LED. In addition, they direct light toward the ground as opposed to having it radiate everywhere.

"You don't want the light pollution," said Dr. Bill Smith, chief communications officer. "It's one thing to light up a parking lot. But if you just have

all this extra unusable light, you want the light where you need it and that's down on the ground where you need to see."

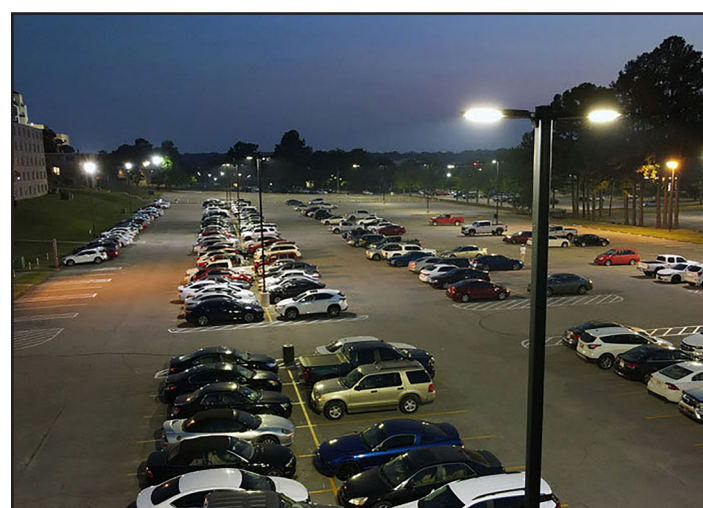
Along with improving lighting and surveillance, the project also works on improving crosswalk safety. Currently, the university is conducting a study on promoting pedestrian protection.

"That will provide us with a plan to improve this situation, especially when it's related to the crosswalks to try to improve that safety," Smith said.

After the completion of the Centennial Stadium phase, the project will move to adding lighting at the Equine Center. It will cost \$339,486.

"It's mostly a daytime use facility, but the demand is such that families are coming in and they're wanting to run their horses at these events," Smith said. "They're getting in and out of the parking lot well, but it sure would help if they had some lights."

The project will be complete once new lighting along Dean Street and the Reng Student Union is installed. This will cost \$454,159.



Top Photo: new lighting at parking lot NW-1B, west side of Dean Street residence halls

Bottom Photo: Aerial view of parking lots NW-1A and NW-1B, with Kays Hall at top left and Dean B. Ellis Library at top right.