



PHOTO, 4B

Looks from the EVOLVE fashion show

Faculty Senate unanimously passes resolution

Resolution aims to improve data access in response to multimedia journalism program deletion



Photo by Rachel Rudd | Editor-in-Chief

Associate professor of chemistry, John Hershberger, Ph.D., presenting the resolution. The resolution aims to provide faculty with relevant rulings from the ADHE.

CAROLINE AVERITT

LIFE EDITOR

JERRY DON BURTON

NEWS EDITOR

Faculty Senate continued discussion about the deletion of Arkansas State University's multimedia journalism (MMJ) program and passed a resolution to avoid similar situations.

Associate professor of history, Gary Edwards, Ph.D. said during the Feb. 16

meeting two of the points he made in a document about the program's deletion presented during the last meeting were moot due to statements from Chancellor Todd Shields, Ph.D. "We wanted to understand why the university didn't request reduction in viability numbers for multimedia journalism. According to the chancellor last time, this was an unenforced rule," Edwards said.

However, during the April 28 Arkansas Higher

Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) meeting, chief academic officer Mason Campbell said the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) Academic Affairs staff requested time with the chief academic officers (CAOs) from each institution to discuss their non-viable programs.

"Our staff required in-depth meetings with all the CAOs and often deans and other campus staff to essentially uncover the elements of these programs that

may influence viability we can't see in the data. Although most of these conversations were not easy, all of the institutions came to the table, of course, willing to follow policy and make necessary adjustments," Campbell said.

Policy Change:

William McLean, Ph.D., senior vice provost for academic affairs, said some issues with the viability of the MMJ program stem from policy changes from the ADHE. "Somebody's always on

the list and somebody's not. It's a fairly new process, just to be honest. It went from an idle threat to now it's a real threat to everyone and I think that's the way we have to approach it," McLean said.

At the April 28 meeting, Campbell said the ADHE developed a new policy for viability after receiving board recommendations at a Jan. 27, 2023 meeting.

"Our previous viability report was not designed to make determinations based on multiple three-year averages at one point in time and we were only delivering it every three years. We teamed up with the Information Systems staff to develop a new report that included a total of five years, so academic year 18-22, with a list of programs that exceeded two additional years after initially being identified as non-viable," Campbell said.

The associate professor said understanding where a program is on the three-year viability review cycle is important to prevent situations similar to the deletion of the MMJ program. According to the AHECB policy, programs are reviewed for viability based on graduation data from a three-year average.

McLean said the deans and chairs of programs scheduled for deletion in April 2024 were notified in October 2023. He said it was up to the colleges and departments to craft a response by November.

Policy "Arbitrariness:"

Edwards said the ADHE policy on removing programs that do not meet viability standards was previously unenforced. He said this meant programs with low graduation numbers were not concerned their program might get cut.

Edwards said Vincent Moreno, Ph.D., chair of English and philosophy, and Eric Cave, Ph.D., professor of philosophy, told him they were worried about the philosophy program.

"Philosophy is underwater according to the standard," Edwards said. "But they said, 'We're always underwater and they always tell us we're underwater but they never cut us.'"

Moreno said the philosophy program should be on the list for upcoming deletion but is not. He said this is because philosophy serves other areas, including general education requirements.

"That suggests an arbitrariness through what policies are executed," Edwards said. "You just feel like there's an ax over you and it's hidden by a cloud and at one point you'll look up and you'll be dead."

Edwards said while he is glad philosophy is not on the list of nonviable programs, he would almost be relieved if it was because he would be confident that the ADHE is adhering to the policy.

CONTINUED:
RESOLUTION, 3A

Evolve celebrates 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement with fashion show

RACHEL RUDD

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A-State Evolve and the African Students Association showed their creativity and remembered the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement in the Evolve fashion show Friday.

Evolve is a student organization promoting minority creativity and leadership.

This year's fashion show was completely student-run, as opposed to previous years where the campus and community ran it. This is also the first time the African Students Association has worked with Evolve.

"The African Students Association is so smart, they're so kind. They were willing to teach us everything we needed to know to help them as much as we could," said Evolve president Kellie Dukes, a junior exercise science major from Marion, Arkansas. "It ended up being a great portion of the show and I definitely would want to do it again."

Students modeled in three categories: Black Panther,

Renaissance and HBCU-ish. The Black Panther category paid homage to the Black Panther Party and other Civil Rights leaders. Renaissance was themed around Beyoncé and HBCU-ish had the models dress in clothes reminiscent of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

In between each walk were intermissions which were to tie in to the walk that came before. The first was the Living Museum, in which each student gave a monologue about a lesser-known Civil Rights leader.

"This set a light onto them and their life and their impact. Everybody's always like, 'Oh, well there's Martin Luther King and then Malcolm X and Rosa Parks,'" said Evolve vice president Gabe Fortenberry, a junior interdisciplinary studies major from Olive Branch, Mississippi. "We just were like, 'There's plenty of other (leaders) that we don't mention or talk about enough.' We wanted to try to reach out and just be like, 'Hey, we know these people are important.'"



Photo by Rachel Rudd | Editor-in-Chief

DeAnna Jones poses during the Black Panther section of the Evolve fashion show. The show was split into three categories: Black Panther, Renaissance and HBCU-ish.

The show also featured Jonathan McElroy playing the saxophone. McElroy's intermission was tied to the Renaissance walk. Students were encouraged to dance before the HBCU-ish walk. Dukes and Fortenberry

said the event was a way to boost student confidence. "The models are being more confident. I have regular members who are coming out and enjoying themselves and supporting their other classmates," Fortenberry said.

"It's a win in both situations and I can't be anything more than grateful." The show's models said they enjoyed participating in the show.

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EVOLVE, 4A

THIS WEEK IN THE HERALD:

OPINION, 2A

- Letter to the editor: The future of journalism at A-State
- New age technology may not be what we need

NEWS, 3A

- A-State celebrates Darwin Day with paleontologist guest speakers
- Campus Crime

SPORTS, 1B

- Red Wolves open season with wins
- Red Wolves Rugby defeats Lindenwood

ARTS & E, 2B

- A-State Theatre to present bluegrass musical "Bright Star"
- "Madame Web:" Don't get caught up in her web

LIFE, 3B

- Student Speak
- Tips for staying cool with your roommates
- Ranking the coffee options on campus