



President of the
Faculty Senate

TO: Joel E. Anderson, Chancellor, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

FROM: Andrew Wright, President of the UALR Assembly and Faculty Senate *Andrew Wright*

SUBJECT: 12/5/2014 Recommendation of the Faculty Senate regarding eVersity

DATE: December 9, 2014

Cc: D. Bobbitt, President of the University of Arkansas System, J. von Greppe,
Chairman, University of Arkansas Board of Trustees

UALR's Faculty Senate unanimously passed the attached recommendation regarding eVersity at the December 5, 2014, Faculty Senate meeting. Please transmit this recommendation to the Board of Trustees via the President of the University of Arkansas System, Dr. Bobbitt.

As you see in the recommendation, the UALR Faculty Senate is committed to the goals of increased educational access for Arkansans and encourages the System to build on the strengths of UALR and other campuses in the system.

The Faculty Senate asked that I request time from the Board at the January 21-22 meeting at UAMS to speak on behalf of the motion and to answer questions. If you could communicate this request to the Board, I would appreciate it.

Motion FS_2014_32: Executive Committee (Recommendation. Majority vote at one meeting) eVersity Recommendations (no second required)

Whereas the faculty of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) are committed to the principle of increasing access to higher education in Arkansas; and

Whereas the mission of UALR as a metropolitan university has always included providing alternate delivery methods to adult, working, and other non-traditional students to promote and extend access to higher education; and

Whereas UALR has led the effort in Arkansas to reach students through on-line education going back to the early days of distance education; and

Whereas more than 15% of UALR students take only on-line courses; and

Whereas more than 40% of UALR students take at least one on-line course; and

Whereas University of Arkansas campuses offer a variety of online courses and programs; and

Whereas the model being adopted for eVersity governance, curriculum development, and teaching will divert faculty time and energy from their home institutions; and

Whereas both the state of Arkansas and the UA system have always discouraged duplication of efforts when approving new programs, both on the grounds of efficiency and of cost; and

Whereas communication on eVersity has restricted participation, debate, and discussion; and

Whereas the arrangements for UALR temporarily “loaning” eVersity its Higher Learning Commission accreditation are vague; and

Whereas curricular and governance processes that are not “consistent with the principles of sound democratic government” and whose “governmental structure” does not include an organization that is “predominantly faculty,” as stated in UA Board policy, may negatively impact this accreditation;

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends that

1. eVersity continue to explore alternative models, such as a portal (where students can access *all* online courses and programs offered by UA campuses in one simple, seamless, administrative step); and
2. the UA Board of Trustees invest its resources in helping its campuses develop state-of-the-art online programs; and
3. eVersity take advantage of UALR's existing systems of curriculum and governance supervision rather than inventing new processes; and

Whereas 90 institutions outside of Arkansas are currently authorized to offer courses and programs to Arkansas students through online delivery methods; and

Whereas over 14,000 Arkansas students are currently enrolled in such out-of-state institutions; and

Whereas the UA System intends eVersity to offer an in-state alternative to these out-of-state competitors; and

Whereas, given the similarity of mission and student demographic between UALR and eVersity, it may be likely that eVersity will draw students from UALR rather than from out-of-state competitors; and

Whereas the programs under development by eVersity include the general education core, Business Administration, and Criminal Justice, all programs available fully online at UALR; and

Whereas the purpose of a university system should be to support its constituent campuses;

Therefore be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends that the Board of Trustees assess the impact on enrollment and funding of its constituent campuses due to eVersity and share these findings with its constituent campuses.