

* For consideration as a joint resolution with PSG; present wording is not final for the joint resolution and requires PSG concurrence. *

PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

RESOLUTION No. FA22 – R009

Resolution in Support of a Southwest Asian and North African Cultural Center



Author(s): Mariam Alyakoob, Amanda Shie
Sponsor(s): Eleanor Didonna; Lilli Ferguson; Utkuhan Genc, PGSG Senator, Industrial Engineering; Mike Sserunjogi, PGSG Senator, Agricultural and Biological Engineering; Stephanie Contreras, PGSG Senator, Educational Studies; Jacob White, PGSG Senator, Computer Science; Haseeb Daudazi, PGSG Senator, Agricultural Economics; Talha Cakir, PGSG Senator, Economics; Bryanna Nelson, PGSG Senator, Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication; Rachel Zhang, PGSG Senator, Hospitality and Tourism Management; Olivia Palepoi, PGSG Senator, Anthropology

WHEREAS, The Purdue University Office of the President Executive Memorandum No. C-6 states “In certain circumstances, it is appropriate to identify groups...as pursuing specialized studies within a discipline or as being engaged in joint interdisciplinary research and education”;¹ and

WHEREAS, The Purdue University Nondiscrimination Policy states “In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity”;² and

WHEREAS, The Purdue Office of Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging states that “the term ‘inclusion’ refers to the proactive and persistent efforts we undertake to ensure that all members of the University community feel welcome and supported.”;³ and

WHEREAS, The Purdue Office of Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging states that “a diverse, inclusive community is an integral part of the Purdue experience”;⁴ and

WHEREAS, Purdue “seeks to impart to its students...global competency”;⁵ and

¹ <https://www.purdue.edu/policies/academic-research-affairs/c-6.html>

² https://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea_eou_statement.php

³ <https://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/about-us/stats.html>

⁴ <https://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/about-us/what-we-do.html>

⁵ <https://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/initiatives/PPGC/index.html>

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WHEREAS, Purdue’s International Students and Scholars Enrollment & Statistical Report for Fall 2021 reports at least 666 international undergraduate and graduate students alone studying at Purdue from the Southwest Asian and North African region, including students from Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Yemen;⁶ and

WHEREAS, Students identifying as Southwest Asian or North African are referred to the Asian and Asian American Resource and Cultural Center (AAARCC); and

WHEREAS, Students identifying as Southwest Asian or North African belong to a distinct culture not aligning with any currently existing cultural centers at Purdue; and

WHEREAS, Students identifying as Southwest Asian or North African are currently directed to list themselves as white or Caucasian in demographic questionnaires; and

WHEREAS, Students identifying as Southwest Asian or North African self-report not identifying with the white or Caucasian demographics;⁷ and

WHEREAS, This inaccurate classification prevents Southwest Asian and North African students from accessing specific resources such as scholarships and educational programs such as the Krannert Business Opportunity program which are allocated towards underrepresented minorities; and

WHEREAS, Advocacy and support of all Purdue students is an essential part of Purdue Student Government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government supports the use of a separate category in demographic questionnaires for Southwest Asian and North African students, who are usually directed to filling the white or Caucasian classification box.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government are in support of the opening of a Southwest Asian and North African cultural center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution shall be considered a joint resolution by Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government.

⁶ https://www.purdue.edu/IPPU/ISS/ Documents/EnrollmentReport/ISS_StatisticalReportFall21.pdf


⁷ <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/17/1079181478/us-census-middle-eastern-white-north-african-mena>

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Purdue Student Government deliver this resolution to the University Senate for consideration as a joint resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Purdue Student Government deliver this resolution to the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging, Jay Akridge, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity and John Gates, Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 30th day of November 2022.

DocuSigned by:

BS016D7B004B4A7...

President, PGSG

DocuSigned by:

9A293462337E40F...

Senate Chair, PGSS

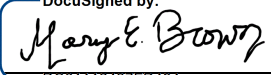
Certification

I, Mary Brown, Senate Clerk of the Purdue Graduate Student Senate, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was regularly passed and adopted by the Purdue Graduate Student Senate of Purdue University, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 30th day of November 2022 by the following vote:

AYES (36): Aeronautics and Astronautics - Krishna Bansibhai Thakkar
Agricultural and Biological Engineering - Mike Sserunjogi
Agricultural Economics - Haseeb Daudzai
Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication - Bryanna Nelson
Animal Sciences - Sarah Innis
Anthropology - Olivia Palepoi
Aviation and Transportation Technology - Luigi Dy (Alternate, Acting Senator)
Biochemistry - Steven McKenzie
Biological Sciences - Morgan Chaney
Biomedical Engineering - Michael Zimmerman
Botany and Plant Pathology - Ricky Critchfield
Chemical Engineering - Annie Sun
Chemistry - Solita Wilson
Communication - Savannah Meier
Comparative Literature - Marisa J Bryans
Computer Science - Jacob White
Curriculum and Instruction - Theodora Amuah
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) - Alaunie Smiley
Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences - Austin Blevins
Electrical and Computer Engineering - Somosmita Mitra
Engineering Education - Barbara Fagundes
English - Marisa Yerace (Alternate, Acting Senator)
Forestry and Natural Resources - Ken Yao Chong
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture - Camila Ulloa Gomez
Human Development and Family Studies - Amy Loviska
Industrial Engineering - Utkuhan Genc
Languages and Cultures - Santiago Parra Giraldo
Materials Engineering - Daniel Sinclair
Mechanical Engineering - Meghavin Bhatasana
Nuclear Engineering - Stepan Ozerov
Nutrition Science - Julia Choi
Philosophy - Mary Brown
Public Health - Sidney Smith
Purdue University Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (PULSe) - Lauren Wilbanks
Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences - Brooke Rodgers

Statistics - Imon Banerjee
NAYS (1): Food Science - Anaël Kimble
ABSENT (3): Ecological Sciences and Engineering (ESE) - Neha Shakelly
Mathematics - Alexandra Cuadra
Technology, Leadership, and Innovation - Ralph Rivera
ABSTAINED (17): Agronomy - Binod Gyawali
Basic Medical Sciences - Siyuan Sun
Civil Engineering - Agustin Quinones
Economics - Talha Cakir
Educational Studies - Stephanie Contreras
Engineering Technology - Pragatheiswar Giri
Environmental and Ecological Engineering - Kendrick Hardaway
Global Supply Chain Management - Rohan Saini
Health Sciences - Brian Bozyski (Acting Senator)
Hospitality and Tourism Management - Rachel Zhang
Industrial and Physical Pharmacy - Pradnya Prakash Bapat
Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBSC) - James Kirby (Acting Senator)
Management - Arindam Roy Chowdhury
Physics and Astronomy - Shayamal Singh
Political Science - Matthew Ellis
Sociology - Reilly Kincaid
Veterinary Clinical Sciences - Ojo Oluwabunmi T.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of January
2023.

DocuSigned by:

DC61112437FD494...
Senate Clerk, PGSS