
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

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>

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

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 countries that can be considered from the Southwest Asian and North African region, and unmeasurable amounts of domestic students identify as SWANA⁶; and

WHEREAS, As defined by the Southwest Asian North African Student Union, they define SWANA as “an umbrella term, including but not limited to: Arabs, Persians, Kurds, Afghans, Turks, Pakistanis, Assyrians, Imazighen, and everyone who feels connected to the region. All of whom are united by a shared culture and history”⁷; 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;⁸ 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

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

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

⁷ <https://swanaalliance.com/about>

⁸ <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/17/1079181478/us-census-middle-eastern-white-north-african-mena>

demographic questionnaires for Southwest Asian and North African students, who are usually directed to filling the white or Caucasian classification box.

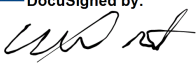
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government are in support of the opening of a Southwest Asian and North African cultural center.

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government jointly deliver this resolution to Patrick Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity as well as John Gates, Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, and finally the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 8th day of March 2022.

DocuSigned by:

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President, PGSG

DocuSigned by:

9A293462337E40F...
Senate Chair, PGSS

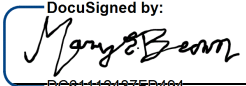
Certification

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 8th day of March 2023 by the following vote:

AYES (40): Agricultural Economics - Haseeb Daudzai
Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication - Bryanna Nelson
Animal Sciences - Sarah Innis
Anthropology - Olivia Palepoi
Basic Medical Sciences - Siyuan Sun
Biochemistry - Steven McKenzie
Biological Sciences - Morgan Chaney
Biomedical Engineering - Michael Zimmerman
Chemical Engineering - Annie Sun
Chemistry - Solita Wilson
Communication - Savannah Meier
Comparative Literature - Marisa J. Bryans
Computer Science - Jacob White
Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences - Austin Blevins
Ecological Sciences and Engineering (ESE) - Neha Shakelly
Economics - Talha Cakir
Electrical and Computer Engineering - Somosmita Mitra
Engineering Education - Barbara Fagundes
Engineering Technology - Pragatheiswar Giri
English - Christopher Barber
Environmental and Ecological Engineering - Aliya Edhe
Forestry and Natural Resources - Ken Yao Chong
Health Sciences - Sydney Stradtman
History - Secret Permenter
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture - Camila Ulloa Gomez
Hospitality and Tourism Management - Rachel Zhang
Human Development and Family Studies - Amy Loviska
Industrial Engineering - Utkuhan Genc
Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBSC) - Antonia Susnjar
Languages and Cultures - Santiago Parra Giraldo
Materials Engineering - Daniel Sinclair
Mechanical Engineering - Meghavin Bhatasana
Nutrition Science - Julia Choi
Philosophy - Mary Brown
Physics and Astronomy - Shayamal Singh
Public Health - Sidney Smith
Purdue University Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (PULSe) - Lauren Wilbanks

Sociology - Reilly Kincaid
Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences - Brooke Rodgers
Technology, Leadership, and Innovation - Elizabeth Thompson
NAYS (1): Food Science - Anaël Kimble
ABSENT (6): Agronomy - Binod Gyawali
Aviation and Transportation Technology - Shantanu Gupta
Curriculum and Instruction - Theodora Amuah
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) - Alaunie Smiley
Management - Arindam Roy Chowdhury
Political Science - Matthew Ellis
ABSTAINED (9): Agricultural and Biological Engineering - Mike Sserunjogi
Botany and Plant Pathology - Ricky Critchfield
Civil Engineering - Agustin Quinones
Educational Studies - Stephanie Contreras
Global Supply Chain Management - Rohan Saini
Industrial and Physical Pharmacy - Pradnya Prakash Bapat
Nuclear Engineering - Stepan Ozerov
Statistics - Imon Banerjee
Veterinary Clinical Sciences - Ojo Oluwabunmi T.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of March
2023.

DocuSigned by:

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Senate Clerk, PGSS