FA22-R009/22-JR004 (TENTATIVE)

“Resolution in Support of a Middle Eastern and North African Cultural Center”

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Sponsor: 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

Date of Meeting:
Ruling: PENDING review by LRC
President, PGSG: Alex Seto
Senate Chair, PGSS: Josiah Davidson

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

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
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

WHEREAS

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

WHEREAS

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

WHEREAS

Students identifying as Middle Eastern or North African belong to a distinct culture not aligning with any currently existing cultural centers at Purdue; and

WHEREAS

Students identifying as Middle Eastern or North African are currently directed to list themselves as white or Caucasian in demographic questionnaires; and

WHEREAS

\(^4\) [https://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/about-us/what-we-do.html](https://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/about-us/what-we-do.html)

\(^5\) [https://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/initiatives/PPGC/index.html](https://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/initiatives/PPGC/index.html)

Students identifying as Middle Eastern or North African self-report not identifying with the white or Caucasian demographics;\(^7\) and

WHEREAS

This inaccurate classification prevents Middle East 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 Middle East and North African students, who are usually directed to filling the white or Caucasian classification box.

BE IT FURTHER RESOVED

That Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government are in support of the opening of a Middle East and North African cultural center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOVED

That this resolution shall be considered a joint resolution by Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government.

\(^7\) [https://www.npr.org/2022/02/17/1079181478/us-census-middle-eastern-white-north-african-mena](https://www.npr.org/2022/02/17/1079181478/us-census-middle-eastern-white-north-african-mena)
BE IT FURTHER RESOVED

That Purdue Student Government deliver this resolution to the University Senate for consideration as a joint resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOVED

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.

President, PGSG

Senate Chair, PGSS