



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON™

A Resolution in Support of SWANA/MENA Studies Minor at California State University, Fullerton

Sponsors: Mary Chammas, Kira Dawson, Dixie Samaniego

Co-Sponsors: Talia Bou Khalil

WHEREAS, The Associated Students Inc., CSUF (ASI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates as an auxiliary organization of California State University, Fullerton; and

WHEREAS, ASI is governed by ASI Board of Directors, sets policy for the organization, approves all funding allocations to programs and services, and advocates on behalf of student interests on committees and boards; and

WHEREAS, SouthWest Asia North Africa (SWANA), traditionally known as Middle East North Africa (MENA), is a geographical term that replaces non-inclusive terms, such as “Middle Eastern” or “Arab” for the community; and

WHEREAS, the SWANA identifying population in California is over 370,000¹ with Orange County accounting for more than 41,000 SWANA identifying people²; and

WHEREAS, CSU Fullerton is a major regional university in an area that includes Orange County, metropolitan Los Angeles, and the Inland Empire³; and

WHEREAS, CSU Fullerton states in its Strategic Plan for 2018-2023 that it strives to create a campus of “diversity, equity, and inclusion: ... by increasing culturally proficient and equity-minded practices across all campus communities”⁴; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of a campus with racial diversity include increased interest in promoting racial understanding and the ability to get along with other race groups⁵; and

WHEREAS, research suggests that SWANA populations on college campuses have experienced discrimination, largely as a result of social and political climates through the past two decades⁶; and

WHEREAS, education, celebration, and recognition of SWANA identities and culture lead to reduced stigma and discrimination derived from the lack of cultural knowledge and awareness⁷; and

¹ <https://yallacountmein.org/states/california>

² <https://voiceofoc.org/2021/04/arab-americans-kick-off-heritage-month-call-for-little-arabia-district-to-be-recognized/?amp>

³ <https://extension.fullerton.edu/international/about-csuf.aspx>

⁴ <https://planning.fullerton.edu/2018-2023-plan/>

⁵ <https://www-jstor-org.lib-proxy.fullerton.edu/stable/43654154?seq=3>

⁶ <https://muse-jhu-edu.lib-proxy.fullerton.edu/article/703298>

⁷ https://www.un.org/en/events/culturaldiversityday/pdf/Investing_in_cultural_diversity.pdf

WHEREAS, 9 of the 23 CSUs (CSU Northridge⁸, Chico State⁹, Fresno State¹⁰, Long Beach¹¹, Sacramento State¹², San Bernardino¹³, San Francisco¹⁴, San Jose¹⁵, and San Diego¹⁶) offer Middle Eastern North African studies or related minor coursework; and

WHEREAS, CSU Fullerton is the highest enrolled CSU with over 41,000 students¹⁷; and

WHEREAS, a minor requirement is defined as a set of courses pertaining to a designated subject area, consisting of 6 units of lower division courses and 6 units of upper division courses¹⁸; and

WHEREAS, CSU Fullerton currently offers both upper and lower division courses that can be associated with the SWANA/MENA subject area, exceeding the amount required of an undergraduate minor, including¹⁹: ECON 336 (Economies of the Middle East); HIST 110A (World Civilizations to the 16th century), HIST 110B (World Civilizations since the 16th century), HIST 313 (Imagining Alexander the Great), HIST 467A (The Middle East in the 19th Century), HIST 467B (Contemporary Middle East History), HIST 468A (Women and Gender in the Middle East History), HIST 468B (Making the Medieval Middle East), HIST 446A, HIST 446B; RLST 110 (Religions of the World), RLST 210 (Introduction to Judaism), RLST 250 (Introduction to Islam), RLST 306 (Contemporary Practices of the World's Religions), RLST 332 (Islamic Scriptural Studies), RLST 335 (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam compared), RLST 371 (History & Development of Islamic Thought: The Beginning to 1258), RLST 372 (History and Development of Islamic Thought: 1259 to Modern Times), RLST 373 (Women in Islam), RLST 374 (Issues in Contemporary Islam), RLST 466A (Islamic Civilization: Arab Era), RLST 466B (Islamic Civilization: Imperial Age); GEOG 373 (Global Cuisines); ARAB 101 (Fundamental Arabic A), ARAB 102 (Fundamental Arabic B), ARAB 203 (Intermediate Arabic A), ARAB 299 (Directed Study), PERS 101 (Fundamental Persian A), 102 (Fundamental Persian B), PERS 299 (Directed Study), PERS 499 (Independent Study); POSC 325 (The Politics of the Arab-Israeli Conflict); ASAM 364 (South Asian American Experience); and

⁸ <https://www.csun.edu/humanities/middle-eastern-and-islamic-studies>

⁹ <https://www.csuchico.edu/lanc/undergraduate/middle-eastern-studies/index.shtml>

¹⁰ <http://www.fresnostate.edu/catalog/subjects/philosophy/mes-mn.html>

¹¹ http://catalog.csulb.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=5&poid=1999

¹² <https://catalog.csus.edu/colleges/arts-letters/middle-east-islamic-studies/minor-in-middle-east-and-islamic-studies/#:~:text=The%20minor%20in%20Middle%20East,and%20the%20wider%20Islamic%20world>

¹³ <https://bulletin.csusb.edu/colleges-schools-departments/social-behavioral-sciences/islamic-middle-eastern-studies-minor/>

¹⁴ <https://bulletin.sfsu.edu/colleges/liberal-creative-arts/international-relations/minor-middle-east-islamic-studies/>

¹⁵ https://catalog.sjsu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=2&poid=837&returnto=96

¹⁶ <https://cias.sdsu.edu/minor>

¹⁷ <https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/about-the-csu/facts-about-the-csu/enrollment>

¹⁸ https://www.fullerton.edu/senate/publications_policies_resolutions/ups/UPS%20400/UPS%20410.103.pdf

¹⁹

https://catalog.fullerton.edu/search_advanced.php?cur_cat_oid=70&ecpage=1&cpage=1&ppage=1&pcpage=1&spage=1&tpage=1&search_database=Search&filter%5Bkeyword%5D=Middle+east&filter%5Bexact_match%5D=1&filter%5B3%5D=1&filter%5B31%5D=1&filter%5B1%5D=1&filter%5B28%5D=1&filter%5B30%5D=1

RESOLVED, ASI urges that a “SouthWest Asian North African (SWANA)” or “Middle Eastern North African (MENA)” minor is offered by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences; and let it be further

RESOLVED, ASI officially supports the future development of additional courses specific to a SWANA/MENA studies in the university’s curriculum; and let it be further

RESOLVED, ASI asks that relevant campus partners provide updates to the ASI Board of Directors once per semester on the progress of the minor development and urges relevant campus partners meet regularly with ASI Student Leadership and SWANA Executive Board Leadership as this project develops; and let it be further

RESOLVED, ASI strongly encourages CSU Fullerton Academic Senate to take action in support of the creation of SWANA studies minor at California State University Fullerton (CSUF) and charge relevant committees to prioritize this action as a result of its established importance to students; and let it be further

RESOLVED, ASI strongly encourages that the Cal State Student Association (CSSA) advocate with appropriate systemwide partners to support expanding the creation of SWANA/MENA studies majors and minors at California State University campuses that do not have academic curriculum established; and let it be further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution be distributed to the California State University (CSU) Chancellor, California State Student Association (CSSA), and to the following CSU Fullerton departments, divisions, and/or entities: the Office of the President, the President’s Advisory Board, the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Office of the Vice President for Human Resources, the Dean and Associate Deans of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Academic Senate Chair, the CSUF Alumni Association, the ASI Executive Director and applicable ASI departments and CSUF stakeholders for appropriate action.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Associated Students Inc., California State University, Fullerton on the third day of May in the year two thousand and twenty-two.

Mary Chammas
Chair, Board of Directors

Morgan Diaz
Secretary, Board of Directors

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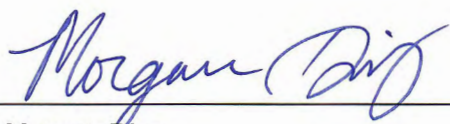
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