

BOD 2020-21 – 9R

Resolution in Support of the Southwest Asian North Africa Community

WHEREAS, Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) of California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) is the recognized voice of approximately 14,000 students; and

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the ASI Board of Directors to advocate and provide responsible and effective leadership for a diverse student population in order to make sound decisions for the betterment of CSUEB students; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the ASI Senate is to serve as the governing body of the students of CSUEB as the ASI Senate, to advance the cause of CSUEB students, and to provide programs and services designed to meet the varied needs of CSUEB students;¹ and

WHEREAS, the CSU Board of Trustees “adopts regulations and policies governing the entire CSU system. Board committees have authority over educational policy, finance, campus planning, and facilities, among other areas;”² and

WHEREAS, CSUEB’s Mission Statement states that “Cal State East Bay welcomes and supports a diverse student body with academically rich, culturally relevant learning experiences which prepare students to apply their education to meaningful lifework, and to be socially responsible contributors to society. Through its educational programs and activities, the university strives to meet the educational needs and to contribute to the vitality of the East Bay, the state, the nation, and global communities;”³ and

¹ California State University, East Bay Associated Students, Incorporated. *Senate Constitution*. Retrieved from: <http://www.csueastbay.edu/asi/files/docs/student-government/board-documents/senate-constitution.pdf>

² The California State University. *Board of Trustees*. Retrieved from: <https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/board-of-trustees>

³ California State University, East Bay. *Mission Statement*. Retrieved from: <https://www.csueastbay.edu/about/mission-and-strategic-planning/index.html>

WHEREAS, CSUEB’s Shared Strategic Commitments includes being dedicated to “enhance our inclusive campus, responding to the backgrounds and interests of our diverse community and promoting their academic, professional and personal development;”⁴ and

WHEREAS, the ASI’s Policy Agenda of 2020-2021,⁵ Initiative #2 Social Justice and Equity, which commits to “providing support for historically underrepresented students: Undocumented/DACA students, mixed status family based students, and Black students in order to promote safety and inclusivity;” and

WHEREAS, ASI’s *Official Statement Denouncing Racial Injustice in America*⁶ states that “ASI is committed to becoming stronger allies and fighting for social justice;” and

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the Diversity and Inclusion Student Center (DISC) “to creating and maintaining an inclusive campus environment that challenges oppression and provides a space for dialogue and engagement. We provide opportunities for leadership development, community engagement, and co-curricular programming on various topics of diversity and inclusion. The Diversity and Inclusion Student Center seeks to better the campus and greater community by advocating for equity and social justice;”⁷ and

WHEREAS, Southwest Asian 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

⁴ California State University, East Bay. *Shared Strategic Commitments*. Retrieved from: <https://www.csueastbay.edu/about/mission-and-strategic-planning/shared-strategic-commitments.html>

⁵ California State University, East Bay Associated Students, Incorporated. *Policy Agenda 2020-2021*. Retrieved from: <https://www.csueastbay.edu/asi/files/docs/asi-government/policies/incorporated-policy-agenda.pdf>

⁶ California State University, East Bay Associated Students, Incorporated. *Official Statement Denouncing Racial Injustice in America*. Retrieved from: <https://www.csueastbay.edu/asi/index.html>

⁷ California State University, East Bay. *Diversity and Inclusion Student Center*. Retrieved from: <https://www.csueastbay.edu/diversity-inclusion/>



WHEREAS, the State of California has the largest number of SWANA identifying community members in the United States with the San Francisco Bay having a large community⁸; and

WHEREAS, in the United States SWANA identifying community members have been, and still currently are, being classified as “Caucasian;”⁹ and

WHEREAS, SWANA community members do not identify as “Caucasian”¹⁰ and the misclassification on the federal level is further perpetuating misclassifications within the California State University (CSU); and

WHEREAS, the CSU systematically collects data on race and ethnicity that does not allow proper representation for the SWANA community;¹¹ and

WHEREAS, the lack of demographic data on the SWANA community hinders effective advocacy, programming, other educational resources, and opportunities for students, faculty, and staff in this community;¹² and

WHEREAS, the Associated Students Incorporated of California State University, Fullerton adopted *A Resolution in Support of the Southwest Asian North Africa Community*;¹³ and

⁸ Arab America. *California*. Retrieved from: <https://www.arabamerica.com/california/>

⁹ NPR. *No Middle Eastern Or North African Category On 2020 Census, Bureau Says*. Retrieved from: <https://www.npr.org/2018/01/29/581541111/no-middle-eastern-or-north-african-category-on-2020-census-bureau-says>

¹⁰ Tehranian, John (2008). *Whitewashed: America's Invisible Middle Eastern Minority*. New York City: NYU Press.

¹¹ Cal State Apply. Race & Ethnicity. Retrieved from: https://help.liaisonedu.com/Cal_State_Apply_Applicant_Help_Center/Filling_Out_Your_Cal_State_Apply_Application/Cal_State_Apply_Personal_Information/5_Race_and_Ethnicity

¹² University of California, Los Angeles Undergraduate Students Association Council. *A Resolution in Support of the Creation of a Southwest Asian and North African Checkbox on the University of California Application*. Retrieved from: <https://usac.ucla.edu/documents/resolutions/UCLA%20SWANA%20Resolution.pdf>

¹³ California State University, Fullerton Associated Students Incorporated. *A Resolution in Support of the Southwest Asian North Africa Community*. Retrieved from: <https://asi.fullerton.edu/wp-content/uploads/A-Resolution-In-Support-of-the-SWANA-Community.pdf>



WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Students Association Council of University of California, Los Angeles adopted *A Resolution in Support of the Creation of a Southwest Asian and North African Checkbox on the University of California Application*;¹⁴ and

WHEREAS, National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM) takes place in April;¹⁵ and

WHEREAS, CSUEB currently dedicates May to APIMESA (Asian Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, South Asian) as a Cultural Awareness Month¹⁶; and therefore let it be

RESOLVED, that with the adoption of this resolution, ASI officially supports the SWANA community and the students' efforts to raise awareness and prioritize the issues of visibility and support; and

RESOLVED, ASI recommends CSUEB creates and administers a campus climate survey with SWANA as a demographic option; and

RESOLVED, ASI recommends that the Division of Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Office of Diversity, evaluates the CSUEB SWANA community's needs, and take the necessary steps to support the CSUEB SWANA community; and

RESOLVED, ASI encourages the DISC to create programming events to support the SWANA community; and

¹⁴ University of California, Los Angeles Undergraduate Students Association Council. *A Resolution in Support of the Creation of a Southwest Asian and North African Checkbox on the University of California Application*. Retrieved from: <https://usac.ucla.edu/documents/resolutions/UCLA%20SWANA%20Resolution.pdf>

¹⁵ ThoughtCo. *Celebrating Arab American Heritage Month*. Retrieved from: <https://www.thoughtco.com/celebrating-arab-american-heritage-month-2834493>

¹⁶ California State University, East Bay Diversity and Inclusion Center. *Cultural Awareness Months*. Retrieved from: <https://www.csueastbay.edu/diversity-inclusion/cam-page.html>



RESOLVED, ASI strongly encourages the California State Student Association (CSSA) to advocate for all California State University applications to include Southwest Asian North African demographic options similar to the University of California applications;¹⁷ and

RESOLVED, ASI strongly recommends CSSA advocate to include the SWANA demographic options in all institutionalized data collection at the Chancellor’s Office, state, and federal levels; and

RESOLVED, ASI strongly recommends that the CSU recognizes the SWANA community, and include the SWANA demographic options in all institutionalized data collection; and and let it be therefore

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be distributed to the Office of the President, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Office of Diversity, Diversity and Inclusion Center, Officer of Student Life and Leadership, Academic Senate, Alumni Association, CSUEB Students for Quality Education, the Pioneer, the Student Government of each CSU campus, CSU Board of Trustees, Cal State Student Association, University of California Student Association, CSU Office of the Chancellor, Cal State Student Association, digitally to all students, and any other relevant parties.

Authored by: Kabir Dhillon, *Chair of the Board of Directors*
Jose Simon Carmona, *Senator of Diversity*

Approved On: Wednesday, December 2, 2020

ASI President/CEO does hereby [] *approves* / [] *refuses to approve* this resolution.

¹⁷ The Daily Californian. *UC to include Southwest Asian, North African category on next year’s undergraduate application*. Retrieved from:
<https://www.dailycal.org/2013/05/27/uc-to-introduce-new-category-for-southwest-asian-and-north-african-students-in-2013-2014-undergraduate-application/>




Euridice Pamela Sanchez-Martinez (Dec 16, 2020 19:04 PST)

Euridice Pamela Sanchez
ASI President/CEO


Kabir Dhillon (Dec 4, 2020 14:43 PST)

Kabir Dhillon
*ASI Chair of the Board of
Directors*


Jose Simon Carmona (Jan 6, 2021 12:26 PST)

Jose Simon Carmona
ASI Senator of Diversity

Approved by: ASI Board of Directors 2020-2021











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Final Audit Report


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