

A Resolution to Support the Inclusion of a Seal of Biliteracy on Collegiate Diplomas and Transcripts

Zach Clark (for himself and Samer Abusway) introduced the following resolution to the Steering Committee where it passed.

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Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University, and

Whereas there are many academic, personal, and professional benefits associated with being able to speak multiple languages,^{1,2} and

Whereas there are many students at The Ohio State University who have chosen to not pursue a major or minor in a foreign language that are proficient in more than one language, and

Whereas the only method of showing one's mastery in a foreign language at The Ohio State University is by procuring a major or minor in one's language of expertise, and

Whereas a Seal of Biliteracy is an award given to graduating students by a school that recognizes students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages,³ and

Whereas twenty-two states and Washington, D.C. have currently approved a statewide Seal of Biliteracy,⁴ and

Whereas the Ohio House of Representatives recently passed House Bill 487 which requires the State Board of Education to establish the State Seal of Biliteracy, which may be attached to official high school transcripts to denote a student's mastery of a foreign language,⁵ and

Whereas Ohio House Bill 487 states that the purpose of adding a seal of biliteracy is to: (1) Encourage students to study languages; (2) Certify the attainment of biliteracy; (3) Provide employers with a method of identifying individuals with language and biliteracy skills; (4) Provide institutions of higher education with an additional method to recognize applicants for admission; (5) Prepare students with twenty-first century skills; (6) Recognize the value of

¹ <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/economic-intelligence/2014/01/29/the-business-benefits-of-learning-a-foreign-language>

² <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/cultural-linguistic/docs/benefits-of-being-bilingual.pdf>

³ <http://sealofbiliteracy.org/faq/what-seal-biliteracy>

⁴ <http://sealofbiliteracy.org/faq/which-states-have-adopted-seal-biliteracy-so-far>

⁵ <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA131-HB-487>

38 foreign language and native language instruction in public schools; and (7) Strengthen inter-
39 group relationships, affirm the value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages
40 of a community,⁵ and
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42 **Whereas** there is currently no effort to implement a seal of biliteracy on a collegiate level;
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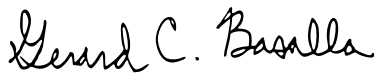
44 **Therefore Let it Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government at the Ohio State
45 University recognizes the importance of a Seal of Biliteracy for graduates seeking employment
46 or applying for graduate and professional school, and
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48 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government at The Ohio State
49 University fully supports the purposes of a Seal of Biliteracy as outlined in Ohio State House Bill
50 487, and
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52 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government at The Ohio State
53 University supports the inclusion of a seal of biliteracy on official Ohio State University
54 diplomas and transcripts, and
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56 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government at the Ohio State
57 University also encourages efforts to implement a Seal of Biliteracy at other institutes of higher
58 learning.
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60 Floor Vote: Passed
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67 Gerard Basalla
68 President
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67 Danielle Di Scala
68 Vice President
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Date Adopted: 11/30/16

Date Terminated: _____