

A Resolution in Support of Creating a Middle Eastern/North African (ME/NA) Category on University Documents

Farhan Quadri (for himself, Erin Donnelly, Kate Greer, Jordan Malpass, Savannah Sockwell, Nate Smith, Kinza Sami, Maria Humayun, Emma Meersman, Tommy Bowles, Rebecca Slavik, Keasen Hao, and Salma Shire) 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 the University has made efforts to foster an atmosphere of diversity and inclusion on campus, and

Whereas the mission of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee within the Undergraduate Student Government is to support, protect, and advocate for the safety and success of all students and to ensure that The Ohio State University promotes these same principles through policy and programming,¹ and

Whereas one vital area of President Drake’s 2020 vision is “the recognition of diversity and inclusion as core principles in everything we do, from academic programming and resources to the hiring and promotion of faculty and staff,”² and

Whereas the Middle Eastern/North African (ME/NA) community has historically raised a concern that there is a lack of official recognition of their identity and existence on college campuses, and they often have to identify as “White” on university documents and forms,³ and

Whereas the any work on diversity, equity, and inclusion would be incomplete if institutions continued to fail at sufficiently recognizing and representing a community with a distinctive history and experience, and

¹ https://usg.osu.edu/commit/issues_committees/diversity_inclusion

² <https://president.osu.edu/strategicplan/>

³ <https://www.ben.edu/college-of-education-and-health-services/higher-education/upload/Shoman-Dajani-DISSERTATION-FINAL-Sept212016.pdf>

37 **Whereas** many students with ME/NA descent do not identify with or have the same life
38 experiences of being white in the United States, especially in a post-9/11 environment of
39 anti-Arab and anti-Muslim discrimination, and

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41 **Whereas** the lack of identification of a ME/NA category negatively impacts students,
42 faculty, and staff in various ways, such as: tracking retention rates and student
43 recruitment, identifying trends in the hiring of faculty, staff, and administration, bias,
44 reporting, and having the ability to reach the community of key issues that impact it, and

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46 **Whereas** the ME/NA community has been left out of processes and resource allocation
47 for the aforementioned, and

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49 **Whereas** The Ohio State University's ability to ascertain who identifies with the ME/NA
50 community is a necessary step in developing programs and interventions to address any
51 disparities and to achieve diversity, equity, and inclusion goals, and

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53 **Whereas** the ME/NA racial category must represent persons with origins in the Middle
54 East/North Africa regardless of their nativity status or parental place of birth; and
55 includes the population with origins in the League of Arab States (Algeria, Bahrain,
56 Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco,
57 Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab
58 Emirates, and Yemen); Non-Arab ME/NA States (Turkey, Iran, and Israel) and
59 transnational communities (Assyrians/Chaldeans, Kurds, Berber, et cetera), and

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61 **Whereas** the University of Michigan passed a similar resolution, A.R. 6-039,⁴ and

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63 **Whereas** the Association of Big Ten Students passed a similar resolution, ABTS
64 01.18.02,⁵ and

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66 **Whereas** the University of California has added a similar category on their applications,
67 and collects data on students from that category;⁶

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69 **Therefore, Let it Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government at The Ohio
70 State University recognizes the need for a ME/NA racial category to be added to all
71 university documents that collect racial and ethnic demographic data in order to identify
72 the ME/NA community on our campus, and

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⁴ <https://csg.umich.edu/legislative/resolutions/>

⁵ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wRRul5p97PhGX11Y8aVVMerSs3wsdKzRAuCXv1AN_X0/edit


⁶ <http://www.dailyca.org/2013/05/27/uc-to-introduce-new-category-for-southwest-asian-and-north-african-students-in-2013-2014-undergraduate-application/>

74 **Let it Further Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government supports
75 relevant efforts needed to create and implement the ME/NA category.

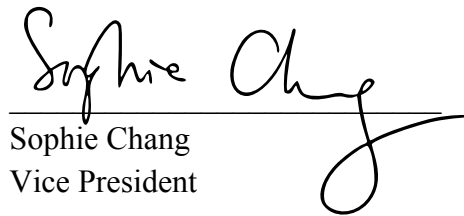
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Floor Vote: Passed with unanimous consent

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92 Andrew Jackson
93 President

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97 Sophie Chang
Vice President

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Date Adopted: February 7, 2018

Date Terminated: _____