

**To:** The University Senate  
**From:** Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee  
**Subject:** Resolution in Support of a Southwest Asian and North African Cultural Center  
**Reference:** PSG/PGSG Joint Resolution 21/22-JR004  
**Disposition:** University Senate for Discussion and Adoption

**Rationale:** 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] The Purdue University Nondiscrimination Policy states, “In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity.” [2]

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 that “a diverse, inclusive community is an integral part of the Purdue experience.” [4] Purdue “seeks to impart to its students...global competency.” [5]

Purdue’s International Students and Scholars Enrollment & Statistical Report for Fall 2021 reports at least 666 international undergraduate and graduate students alone studying at Purdue from countries that can be considered from the Southwest Asian and North African region, and unmeasurable amounts of domestic students identify as SWANA. [6] The Southwest Asian North African Student Union define SWANA as “an umbrella term, including but not limited to: Arabs, Persians, Kurds, Afghans, Turks, Pakistanis, Assyrians, Imazighen, and everyone who feels connected to the region, all of whom are united by a shared culture and history.” [7]

Students identifying as Southwest Asian or North African are referred to the Asian and Asian American Resource and Cultural Center (AAARCC); but students identifying as Southwest Asian or North African belong to a distinct culture not aligning with any currently existing cultural centers at Purdue. Students identifying as Southwest Asian or North African self-report not identifying with the white or Caucasian demographics. [8]

This inaccurate classification prevents Southwest Asian 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.

**Proposal:** The University Senate joins with the Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government to support the use of a separate category in demographic questionnaires for Southwest Asian and North African students, who are usually directed to fill in the white or Caucasian classification box.

The University Senate joins with the Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government to support the opening of a Southwest Asian and North African cultural center.

#### References:

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/policies/academic-research-affairs/c-6.html>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea\\_eou\\_statement.php](https://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea_eou_statement.php)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/about-us/stats.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/about-us/what-we-do.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/initiatives/PPGC/index.html>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.purdue.edu/IPPU/ISS/\\_Documents/EnrollmentReport/ISS\\_StatisticalReportFall21.pdf](https://www.purdue.edu/IPPU/ISS/_Documents/EnrollmentReport/ISS_StatisticalReportFall21.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://swanaalliance.com/about>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/17/1079181478/us-census-middle-eastern-white-north-african-mena>

#### Committee Votes:

##### **For:**

##### **Faculty**

Ximena Bernal  
Brian Dilkes  
Geraldine Friedman  
Alice Johnson  
Oana Malis  
Kevin Stainback  
Robin Tanamachi

##### **Advisors**

Lowell Kane

##### **Students**

Rachel Zhang

##### **Against:**

N/A

##### **Abstained:**

N/A

##### **Absent:**

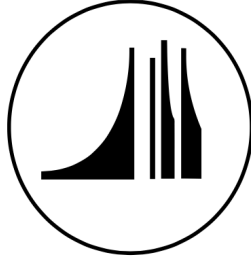
##### **Faculty**

Santokh Badesha  
Yuan (Brad) Kim  
Trish Morita-Mullaney  
Li Qiao  
Gustavo Rodriguez-Rivera  
Timothy Ropp

##### **Advisors**

Lisa Mauer  
Alysa Rollock





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**PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT GOVERNMENTS**

**Joint Resolution 21/22-JR004**



**Resolution in Support of a Southwest Asian and North African Cultural  
Center**

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**Author(s):** Mariam Alyakoob, Amanda Shie  
**Sponsor(s):** 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

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**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”;<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS,** The Purdue University Nondiscrimination Policy states “In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity”;<sup>2</sup> 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.”;<sup>3</sup> and

**WHEREAS,** The Purdue Office of Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging states that “a diverse, inclusive community is an integral part of the Purdue experience”;<sup>4</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/policies/academic-research-affairs/c-6.html>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea\\_eou\\_statement.php](https://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea_eou_statement.php)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/about-us/stats.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/about-us/what-we-do.html>

**WHEREAS**, Purdue “seeks to impart to its students...global competency”;<sup>5</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, Purdue’s International Students and Scholars Enrollment & Statistical Report for Fall 2021 reports at least 666 international undergraduate and graduate students alone studying at Purdue from countries that can be considered from the Southwest Asian and North African region, and unmeasurable amounts of domestic students identify as SWANA<sup>6</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, As defined by the Southwest Asian North African Student Union, they define SWANA as “an umbrella term, including but not limited to: Arabs, Persians, Kurds, Afghans, Turks, Pakistanis, Assyrians, Imazighen, and everyone who feels connected to the region. All of whom are united by a shared culture and history”<sup>7</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Students identifying as Southwest Asian or North African are referred to the Asian and Asian American Resource and Cultural Center (AAARCC); and

**WHEREAS**, Students identifying as Southwest Asian or North African belong to a distinct culture not aligning with any currently existing cultural centers at Purdue; and

**WHEREAS**, Students identifying as Southwest Asian or North African are currently directed to list themselves as white or Caucasian in demographic questionnaires; and

**WHEREAS**, Students identifying as Southwest Asian or North African self-report not identifying with the white or Caucasian demographics;<sup>8</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, This inaccurate classification prevents Southwest Asian 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 Southwest Asian and North African students, who are usually directed to filling the white or Caucasian classification box.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government are in support of the opening of a Southwest Asian and North African cultural center.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/initiatives/PPGC/index.html>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.purdue.edu/IPPU/ISS/ Documents/EnrollmentReport/ISS\\_StatisticalReportFall21.pdf](https://www.purdue.edu/IPPU/ISS/ Documents/EnrollmentReport/ISS_StatisticalReportFall21.pdf)


<sup>7</sup> <https://swanaalliance.com/about>

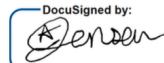
<sup>8</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/17/1079181478/us-census-middle-eastern-white-north-african-mena>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this resolution shall be considered a joint resolution by Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That Purdue Student Government deliver this resolution to the University Senate for consideration.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That Purdue Student Government and Purdue Graduate Student Government jointly deliver this resolution to Patrick Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity as well as John Gates, Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, and finally the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging.

DocuSigned by:  
  
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President, PGSG

DocuSigned by:  
  
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President, PSG

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### Legislation History

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**Purdue Student Government (PSG) Passage Date:** March 23, 2022<sup>9</sup> (Initial)  
PSG President: Shannon Kang  
PSG Senate President: Olivia Wyrick

**Purdue Student Government (PSG) Delivery to PGSG Date:** November 10, 2022<sup>10</sup>  
**Amended by Purdue Graduate Student Government (PGSG):** November 30, 2022  
**PGSG Passage Date:** March 8, 2023  
**PSG Passage Date:** March 8, 2023  
PSG President: Andrew Jensen  
PSG Senate President: Izzy Webber

PGSG President: Alex Seto  
PGSG Senate Chair: Josiah Davidson

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<sup>9</sup> This legislation was passed by the Purdue Student Government Senate session beginning Fall 2021 and the Purdue Graduate Student Senate session beginning Fall 2022. Consequently, the bill is numbered to indicate that legislation was originally passed under a different PSG senate than the senate forwarding to PGSG for consideration.

<sup>10</sup> The PSG President holding office beginning in Fall of 2022 is the signatory on the passage of this joint resolution. For signatures of the passage of this bill in April 2022, please contact the PSG Senate President.