

**THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

Bill Number: Senate Resolution SR #2017-42
Title: Support and Acknowledgement for Middle Eastern Studies
Sponsored by: Senators-at-Large Yasmin Elasmr and Yasmeen Azam, and Vice President Logan Vournas
Date Submitted: April 21, 2017
Date Approved: May 10, 2017

- WHEREAS** the Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is the single recognized voice for over 37,000 students of the university; and
- WHEREAS** that on July 13, 2016, CSU Chancellor Timothy White distributed the Report of the California State University Task Force on the Advancement of Ethnic Studies to the CSU system; and
- WHEREAS** the Ethnic Studies Report categories ethnic studies to include the following: "African American Studies/Africana Studies/Pan Africana Studies, Asian American Studies, Chicano Studies/Latina-Latino Studies, Native American Studies/American Indian Studies, and Multicultural Studies;"¹ and
- WHEREAS** nowhere in the report does it mention Middle Eastern Studies or any other program relating to studies of the people or cultures of the Middle East;² and
- WHEREAS** no one on the Ethnic Studies Task Force comes from a department of Middle Eastern Studies;³ and
- WHEREAS** the Ethnic Studies Report recommends resources to strengthen and promote the development of a campus climate that acknowledges the report's integral role in furthering "diversity and equity" efforts as they relate to people of color without accounting for people or cultures of the Middle East;⁴ and
- WHEREAS** the current CSULB curriculum only offers Middle Eastern Studies as a minor option, and offers a limited number of courses regarding the Middle East specifically;⁵ and
- WHEREAS** there have been student complaints regarding the lack of consistency and the continued cancellation of Middle Eastern Studies courses; and
- WHEREAS** much like other Ethnic Studies programs, Middle Eastern Studies at CSULB is severely underfunded and faces systematic issues including:
- Lack of class options and availability
 - Lack of tenured faculty
 - Lack of resources to prepare students for careers pertaining to Middle Eastern Studies; now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that CSULB ASI urges the University to better recognize and support students of Middle Eastern descent at CSULB by increasing systematic support for Middle Eastern Studies including:

¹ <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadAff/ethnicstudiesreport.pdf>

² <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadAff/ethnicstudiesreport.pdf>

³ <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadAff/ethnicstudiesreport.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.calstate.edu/AcadAff/ethnicstudiesreport.pdf>

⁵ <http://web.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/cla/history/histum05.html>

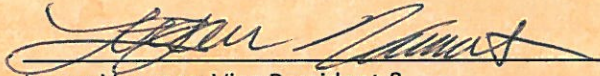
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increased funding, increased tenure-track faculty, and increased stability of classes offered under the minor; and be it further


RESOLVED that CSULB ASI encourages the establishment of Middle Eastern Studies as a major at CSULB, falling under the Ethnic Studies category within the next 5 years; and be it further

RESOLVED that the CSULB ASI encourages Chancellor White and the California State University Board of Trustees to include and recognize Middle Eastern Studies as a category of Ethnic Studies; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that an electronic copy of this resolution, upon its approval by the ASI President be distributed to CSULB President Jane Close Conoley, CSULB Vice President for Student Affairs Carmen Taylor, Provost Brian Jersky, all members of the California State Student Association, all current ASI Officers, the Chair and members of the Academic Senate, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Chris Wallace, the Chairs of all CSULB Ethnic Studies Departments, CSU Chancellor Timothy White, and the CSU Board of Trustees


Logan Vournas, Vice President &
Chair, Associated Students Board of Directors

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:


Marvin Flores, Associated Students President

5/10/17
Date
5/10/17
Date

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