

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

Bill Number: Senate Resolution #2021-12
Title: Support for the South West Asian North African (SWANA) Community
Sponsored by: Senator-at-Large Sumaiyah Hossain
Date Submitted: April 9, 2021
Date Approved: April 28, 2021

WHEREAS the Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) Board of Directors at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is the recognized voice for over 37,000 students; and

WHEREAS that CSULB has a mission to “enrich students’ lives through globally informed, high impact educational experiences with superior teaching, research, creative activity, and action for the public good” and lists “diversity” as one of its strengths;¹ and

WHEREAS that Los Angeles County is reportedly home to over 350,000 people that identify as South West Asian North African (SWANA);² and

WHEREAS that the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau would not include a category for South West Asian North African and would instead state that the category “White” includes “all individuals who identify with one or more nationalities or ethnic groups originating in Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa;”³ and

WHEREAS that the lack of inclusivity and visibility of people who identify as South West Asian North African does not capture their experiences as people of color;⁴ and

WHEREAS that the inability to distinguish individuals who identify as South West Asian North African from the “White” category does not accurately represent Caucasian data nor can the SWANA population be accurately identified; and

WHEREAS California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) passed a resolution to support SWANA students through establishing a distinct category of racial and ethnic identification, increasing visibility, and encouraging similar advocacy on a systemwide level through the Cal State Student Association (CSSA);⁵ and

WHEREAS that CSSA has drafted a resolution in support of SWANA students and the creation of appropriate categorization on a systemwide level;⁶ now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the ASI Board of Directors supports the South West Asian North African communities at CSULB and will advocate for visibility of these students; and be it further

¹ <https://www.csulb.edu/about-csulb/about-csulb/our-mission-vision-values>

² <https://observablehq.com/@datadesk/swana-population-map>

³ <https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions/2020-census-questions-race.html>

⁴ <https://www.latimes.com/projects/la-me-census-middle-east-north-africa-race/>

⁵ <https://asi.fullerton.edu/wp-content/uploads/A-Resolution-In-Support-of-the-SWANA-Community.pdf>

⁶ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GmVimkf5HmA4jrCRCBuszuNTF8a6r9gZ/edit>

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RESOLVED that the ASI Board of Directors supports the addition of the category for South West Asian North African; and be it further

RESOLVED that the ASI Board of Directors strongly encourages the university to adopt a demographic categorization on all applicable documentation of "South West Asian North African" for students to better identify with their racial and ethnic background and to improve demographic reporting; and be it finally

RESOLVED that an electronic copy of this resolution, upon approval by the ASI President be distributed to CSU Chancellor Joseph Castro, Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, Long Beach City Council Members, CSULB President Jane Conoley, Vice President for Student Affairs Beth Lesen, Dean of Students Piya Bose, all current and future ASI Officers, the Daily 49er, and 22 West Media.

Maythe Alderete Gonzalez
Maythe Alderete Gonzalez, Vice President &
Chair, Associated Students Board of Directors

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:

5/10/2021
Date

Omar Prudencio Gonzalez
Omar Prudencio Gonzalez, Associated Students President

5/10/2021
Date

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