

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 7-NUMBER

A Resolution Urging U-M Administration to Incorporate Middle Eastern/North African Students into Demographic Research

- WHEREAS,** the University of Michigan (hereafter, U-M) has demonstrated a commitment to efforts of diversity and inclusion through implementation of strategies related to the plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (hereafter, DEI)¹; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** as cited by the DEI Plan, U-M strives “to broaden its diversity and strengthen its inclusiveness” and “our strong tradition of student activism and striving for change” has “led us to this next concerted effort to create a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment for our entire campus community”¹; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** the U-M Central Student Government (hereafter, CSG) seeks to “promote academic freedom and responsibility, foster fellowship and collaboration among the Students, and guarantee a public forum for Student expression”²; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** CSG previously passed a resolution supporting the incorporation of a Middle Eastern/ North Africa (hereafter, ME/NA) box on all official University documents collecting demographic data³; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** most communities of ME/NA descent immigrated to Michigan in the 70s, 90s, and early 2000s, indicating that a significant proportion of ME/NA students in this state are either immigrants or first-generation students⁴;
- WHEREAS,** various departments, centers, and a number of synonymous assemblies on campus collect demographic information in order to improve educational and student life outcomes for students on campus⁵; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** research on students and student experience is often aggregated from the Michigan data warehouse, which does not include a ME/NA identity category⁶; **AND**

¹ [DEI Strategic Plan](#)

² [CSG Constitution](#)

³ Resolution number (AR 6-something)

⁴ [History of Middle Eastern Immigration to Michigan](#)

⁵ <http://its.umich.edu/enterprise/administrative-systems/data-warehouse/data-areas>

⁶ <http://its.umich.edu/enterprise/administrative-systems/data-warehouse/data-areas/student>

WHEREAS, on February 19th, CSG hosted a town hall with GROWING STEM faculty committee; **AND**

WHEREAS, GROWING STEM is a U-M Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Knowledge Community (KC) led by faculty and staff seeking to form collaborations across academic units to improve the pipeline and experience of underrepresented groups into STEM;⁷ **AND**

WHEREAS, CSG Representatives present at the townhall agreed to raise this as a point of issue with the faculty present; **AND**

WHEREAS, ME/NA students have historically raised a concern regarding the lack of official recognition of their identities and existence on campus, having to identify as white⁸; **AND**

WHEREAS, the ability to ascertain who identifies with the ME/NA community is a necessary step in academic and scientific research to address any disparities and to achieve the University's DEI goals⁹; **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED CSG recognizes the importance of collecting accurate and comprehensive data on the ME/NA student population; **AND**

RESOLVED, CSG officially encourages education researchers to incorporate and collect ME/NA data to better understand and address the needs and challenges faced by this student population; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, this resolution will be sent to Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion Robert Sellers, Provost Martin Philbert, Vice President of Student Life Royster Harper, Professor Tim McKay, Associate Director at the National Center for Institutional Diversity Marie Ting, Director of the National Center for Institutional Diversity Tabbye Chavous, and the GROWING STEM faculty committee¹⁰.

Authors

⁷ <https://lsa.umich.edu/ncid/priorities/growing-stem>

⁸ <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/student-government/resolution-recognize-mena-racial-category-p asses-unanimously-csg>

⁹ <https://diversity.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/DEI-STUDENT-REPORT-FINAL.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://lsa.umich.edu/ncid/priorities/growing-stem>

Nadine Jawad, Ford School

Jad Elharake, LSA

Ibtihal Makki, College of Pharmacy

Attest

Alex Contis, LSA
Speaker of the Assembly

Isabel Baer
Vice Speaker of the Assembly

President's Approval

Anushka Sarkar

Presented to the Assembly for *First Reads* on _____

Presented to the Assembly for *Second Reads* on _____

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abs: _____ Date: _____

Signature Necessary: _____ Signature Received By _____: _____

