

**R F2017.10**

**A Resolution Advocating for the Addition of a Middle Eastern/North African (ME/NA) Category**

*A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government*

October 11, 2017

Sponsors: Patrick Miller, Brian Wang, Nicholas Fadanelli, Ryan Gillcrist, Amal Alzendani, and Alex Paradowski

**Whereas**, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;<sup>1</sup> and,

**Whereas**, it is the duty of the University of Michigan (hereafter the University) to provide an inclusive environment for all students, including those with marginalized identities; and,

**Whereas**, the mission of DEI is to “enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion at the University of Michigan,” which includes diversity of race and ethnicity;<sup>2</sup> and,

**Whereas**, Middle Eastern and North African (hereafter ME/NA) communities have been historically marginalized in American society; and,

**Whereas**, the Islamophobia Working Group has identified this issue as an important area of concern;<sup>3</sup> and,

**Whereas**, the United States Census Bureau is expected to add a ME/NA category in the United States 2020 Census;<sup>4</sup> and,

**Whereas**, ME/NA students at the University are currently required to select “white” on the Common App, Graduate school applications, job applications, when selecting their ethnicity on Wolverine Access, etc.;<sup>5</sup> and,

**Whereas**, students of this identity frequently raise concerns that there is no recognition of their community on campus due to the lack of a ME/NA option.

**Be it therefore resolved**, LSA SG calls upon the University to include a ME/NA option on all documentation and applications that request racial and ethnic information; and,

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<sup>1</sup> The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

<sup>2</sup> [DEI Strategic Plan](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Islamophobia Working Group DEI Report](#)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/census-bureau-considering-new-category-arab-americans-2020-count/>

<sup>5</sup> [Proposed Reclassification of Arab Americans on the 2020 Census](#)

**Be it finally resolved,** LSA SG will send a letter to the University's administration in order to bring this issue to their attention and to promote further discussion over the topic.