

LSA SG Regular Meeting (via Zoom)

June 2, 2021

8:00 PM

Zoom: <https://umich.zoom.us/j/99479266622>

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Roll Call () - Present, E - Excused, A- Absent

i.	Watt, Tyler		xxv.	Tam, Peter	
ii.	Farah, Zackariah		xxvi.	Chakraborti, Aditya	E
iii.	Rifkin, Cameron		xxvii.	Addison, William	
iv.	Cohen, Jacob		xxviii.	Tedrick, Vincenzo (Vince)	
v.	Theuerkauf, Caroline		xxix.	Neff, Ethan	
vi.	Rich, Sophia		xxx.	Burgaj, Roland (Ron)	
vii.	Salino, Sarah		xxxi.	Vidhya-Ponraj, Mithun	
viii.	Goodsell, Alli		xxxii.	Juliao, Jordan	E
ix.	Hamamy, Salma		xxxiii.	Ramos, Lissette	
x.	McLean, Claudia	E	xxxiv.	Smith, Lauren	E
xi.	Rothstein, Kayla		xxxv.	Crews, Tiffany	
xii.	Williams, Erik		xxxvi.	Berglund, Mollie	E
xiii.	Dai, Carol	E	xxxvii.	Crespo, Maleny	E
xiv.	Fioritto, Tyler	E	xxxviii.	Hwang, Tae Won (Danny)	E
xv.	Nguyen, Alex	E	xxxix.	Mulliken, Ryan	E
xvi.	Altimemy, Zahraa	E	xl.	Pierangeli, Cody	E
xvii.	List, M. Riley	E	xli.	Sommerfeld, Elizabeth	E
xviii.	Jonaitis, Cody		xlii.	Wojtara, Magda	E
xix.	Stoneman, Max		xliii.	Torres, Gabriela	E
xx.	Slack, Caroline		xliv.	Colvin, Anna	
xxi.	Gunasekaran, Gaurie	E	xlv.	Orleans, Louis	E
xxii.	Zhao, Suki				
xxiii.	Kado, Lydia	E			
xxiv.	Nelson, Erica	E			

3. Announcements
 - a. Ramos: Why did chat have to be muted?

- i. Rothstein: This meeting open to a lot of people and to make sure that the space remains respectful and on task.
 - b. Burgaj: I was present, but the new setting prohibits speech. Is there a reason we have this block?
 - i. Rothstein: In order to make sure that this is a safe space.
 - c. Watt: No update from DPSS from last meeting's events, and if anything happens I'll let you know!
4. Motion to amend the agenda to remove committee and executive reports
 - a. *Motion: Cohen*
 - b. *Second: Crews*
 - i. *Consented*
5. Approval of Agenda
 - a. *Motion: Farah*
 - b. *Second: Salino*
 - i. *Consented*
6. Approval of Previous Minutes
 - a. *Motion: Salino*
 - b. *Second: Farah*
 - i. *Consented*
7. Constituents' Time
 - a. Pai: I'm at a loss for what to say that this resolution was tabled for another week. The situation is not more clear that Israel is an apartheid state, and that US tax money is being given to the Israeli government. The anti-semitism resolution was passed at the last meeting. To say that one resolution is written in the same time period, is a way to silence Palestinian voices and their supporters. Incredibly disappointed.
 - b. Sharba: Speaking out against Israel is not anti-semitic. It takes a simple google search to see all the things that Israeli has deemed Israeli settlements illegal. Various black revolutionaries have spoken against Israel, and I think it is our duty to push our administration to speak out.
 - c. Walling: he/him. Similar to Pai, this is disappointing for me to have to speak multiple

times for my representatives to condemn apartheid states. When it comes to condemning an ongoing apartheid, we're debating the fact of the matter. There is a right side of history. It's the right time to do to sign this resolution.

- d. Arun: Express my support for this resolution. This is important to acknowledge Palestinians voices. The oppression of Palestinians is funded by the West, and encourage ethnic cleansing and blocking necessary resources. If you don't believe in collective liberation then you won't be successful.
- e. Yuan: he/him. Extremely disappointed in LSA SG for not passing this resolution sooner. We must take a bold and rapid response to. We must keep this centered in our conversation. We have a moral duty to push for the rights of Palestinians, and take transformative steps. This statement is the minimum, but it's a good start. It's unforgivable that this statement was put off.
- f. Caldwell: Quite a few people have taking a neutral stance. While there has definitely been violence from both sides, the focus and blame is being pushed onto the minority. This isn't violence, it's self-defense. In every event in history, the powerless were seen as the problematic ones for fighting back and that's what's happening with the Palestinians. This resolution is the bare minimum.
- g. Weinger: I want to echo everyone who's spoken so far. I'm a Jewish student on campus, and I think it's absurd that we can pass a resolution for anti-semitism on campus but not for Palestinians. This is racist. The violence is continuing yet the media is pushing away. Free Palestine.
- h. Hilal: Claims have been made that the statement made by CSG is anti-semitic. Anti-zionism does not equal anti-semitism. The statement speaks on the apartheid of the Israeli government, this is not against Jews. Israel's policy and ethnic cleansing. If you do not condemn the acts of the Israeli government then you can't condemn the Holocaust.
- i. Imtiaz: We want to condemn the statements of representative Alex who isn't on the call. I hope you can convey to him that the statements made by CSG were bias and not factual. Although this doesn't relate to the resolution, but I felt this needed to be said.
- j. Naga: It truly saddens me to attempt to persuade our representatives to pass this resolution. Some of you may feel backlashes from supporting this resolution. The

backlash with either choice LSA makes. I hope you care about our Palestinian students and Palestinians. By staying silent, you are choosing the side of the oppressor. I urge you to all make the right choice.

- k. Imran: Endorse the resolution. I'm disappointed this resolution was tabled for a week. They tell us to read trustworthy historical documents yet Palestinians are being blocked by writing their own historical documents. Whenever there is indigenous existence there is indigenous resistance. This may just be one declarative statement. We enable the oppressor if we don't speak out.
- l. Alomary: The fact that it's taken this long hurts as a Palestinian student. This is a story of my grandma. She is 4 years older than the state that kicked her out. She almost lost her brother. Umich was my dream school and I don't feel like I'm being represented or loved. I hope we would be past this.
- m. Fehmi: Unfortunately, the campus has not been safe for Arabs. We have had to sit through classes with bias professors that misrepresent our voices. When people went to paint the rock in solidarity, and was covered within 24 hours with hate speech. I encourage you to pass this resolution and take a step in the right direction.
- n. Horvitz: It is weird that the anti-semitism and this resolution have not had the same trajectory. There have been multiple professionals that have recognized this as an apartheid state.
- o. Ateya: In the context of the current Israeli elections, the new prime minister is one of the best examples of an apartheid state. He wants a Jewish state with Palestinians as second-class citizens. The government is endorsing the apartheid - in real time.
- p. Sirhan: The last few weeks have been exhausting for Palestinians and their supporters in that you recognize our ongoing pain and putting our trauma on display. Tired of begging the university. We want to exist on a campus that ignores us on all levels. We feel everyday that we are unwelcomed. A resolution is the bare minimum, and there needs to be more action.
- q. Grimes: As former IRC vice-chair is to remain apolitical. This resolution takes clear stances that we have no preview over. Much of the language will be seen as anti-semitic. I would encourage members to vote against this resolution, and I will be the first to write

a new resolution.

- r. Pasupula: I'm disappointed in LSA SG for not passing this resolution last week. Children are dying. If a bunch of your peers were in a hostage situation would you bomb the whole building? We've seen so much silence. This is a basic human rights issue. If we can't take a basic stance, I have no words. It would make Palestinians students feel unsafe.
 - s. Farah: I'm one of the key sponsors. I understand it's not an easy position. It's our duty to agree with human rights watch and condemn the actions we've seen in the past week. We are a student government founded to take a stance on the Vietnam war. I think it's very clear that we will be alienating far more students by not passing this resolution than by passing it. LSA SG and CSG are on the right side of history if we pass this resolution.
 - t. Liz: I'm certain every person in this meeting is appalled by anti-semitic violence. By supporting this we are condemning the Israeli government not Jews. We should be able to hold people accountable. Palestinians don't have a state or a democracy.
 - u. Charara: I'm a supporter of this resolution. I'm tired. This is disgusting that this was tabled and there was so much hesitation. I think Adam's neutrality is appalling. It's things like that where Palestinians feel silenced. It's not okay to be neutral.
8. Guest Speaker(s)
9. Executive Officer Reports
- a. President - Tyler Watt (trwatt@umich.edu)
 - i. Nothing new to report; email me with any questions or concerns!
 - b. Vice President - Zackariah Farah (zfarah@umich.edu)
 - c. Treasurer - Cameron Rifkin (crifkin@umich.edu)
 - d. Counsel - Jacob Cohen (jaccohen@umich.edu)
 - e. Academic Relations Officer - Caroline Theuerkauf (theuerkc@umich.edu)
 - f. External Relations Officer - Sophia Rich (sserich@umich.edu)
 - g. Student Life Relations Officer - Sarah Salino (smsalino@umich.edu)
 - h. Secretary - Alli Goodsell (goodsela@umich.edu)
10. Committee Reports (in alphabetical order)
- a. Budget Allocations Committee - Louis Orleans (lorleans@umich.edu)
 - b. Committee Advocating for Transfer, Nontraditional, and International Students - Jordan

Juliao (jjuliao@umich.edu)

- c. Diversity Affairs Committee - Gaurie Gunasekaran (gaurie@umich.edu)

11. Task Force and Subcommittee Reports

- a. Appointments Subcommittee - Claudia McLean (mclaudia@umich.edu)
- b. Health Subcommittee - Gaurie Gunasekaran (gaurie@umich.edu)
- c. Judiciary Establishment and Election Code Amendment Task Force - Max Stoneman (maxstone@umich.edu)
- d. LSA Annual Scholarship Task Force - Vince Tedrick (vtedrick@umich.edu)
- e. Subcommittee on Technology, Advising, and Academic Resources - Jordan Juliao (jjuliao@umich.edu)
- f. Taking Responsibility for the Earth and Environment Subcommittee - Erik Williams (werik@umich.edu)

12. Individual Representative Reports

13. Appointments, Elections, and Nominations

- a. x

14. Budget Allocations Committee Recommendations

- a. *None*

15. Old Business (YES-NO-ABSTAIN)

- a. [R F2021.06 A Resolution Condemning the Israeli System of Apartheid and its State-Sanctioned Violence against the Palestinian People](#)
 - 1. Farah: This resolution agrees with intl organizations. These orgs have declared that the iSraeli govt is committing the cir eo fapartheid by making laws that make Palestinians second class citizens. Attacks against Gaza have left 72k Pal. homeless, it has destroyed clinics, Red Crescent Office, drinking water infrastructure for 800k, an AP office, and an al-Jazeera office. Any other place would be a no-brainer to condemn; we witnessed the deaths of 60 children that we paid for as American children. We fund 20% of the IDF; we are complicit in this, To say nothing would be immoral. We issued statement when there was an increase in anti-Asian, anti-Semitic violence. It is our responsibility to speak against racism wherever it comes up. Univ research helps create weapons for the IDF; we as U of M students pay taxes that go toward Israel buying weapons that we develop. It is our duty to address all the heart-wrenching statements that Palestinian and non-Palestinian students

have raised tonight. LSA SG was founded to protest the Vietnam war; many had issues with this, but now the student movement from that era is in textbooks. We would be joining many other institutions at U of M by making this statement; Geo, Leo, student governments, a diverse set of student groups. If we fail to pass it tonight, we would be the only SG at Umich to have not passed one among the student governments presently meeting. All must condemn what we are seeing, what is being reported by Nobel Prize winning groups as ethnic-cleansing.

2. Salma Hamamy: I was going to apologize for being dramatic, but then I realized that it is not at all dramatic to witness the suffering of Palestinian oppression and violence. I am sick of watching footage of dead Pal children. Instead of help, you all make it difficult. Why? Because they are not white, because their ethnicities are constantly being denied, Why is it that this resolution was tabled in the first place? What issue in the language was so important to table? Would you consult students outside of a group from addressing a statement on a group. Your intent is to silence us. When I asked a question, someone said that it was not up for debate. I do not need you to mansplain Robert's Rules to me. The second a Pal woman stood up, you tried to silence me. It is clear that you would be on the wrong side of history. The Civil Rights movement all supported Palestine; to this day, Black groups support Palestine. US police officers learn tactics in Israel, like those used to oppress people in the US and Israel. This is not a conflict for anyone to remain neutral. I am exhausted; I do not see why I have to come here to tell you why this needs to be passed. I can't understand it, it is really frustrating.
3. Erik Williams: I echo the constituents and sponsors. I think to not issue a statement on this to say the least is to stand on the side of the oppressor instead of the oppressed. HR orgs have said this an apartheid state, and an oppressive state exists in Israel. Crimes against humanity exist in Israel; if we cannot condemn this then LSA SG does not deserve to represent the diverse university. Diverse groups have sponsored this; it is our duty to follow suit. It is a disgrace that we tabled this for a week when crimes against humanity are at hand. As a previous speaker said, it is not in LSA SG's role to respond to political events. However, this should be something that we seek out to do. By tabling this, we sent a clear message to the Palestinian community that we do not care for them as we do for the Israeli community. I would love to see this passed tonight, and I would love you all to support it too.

4. Max Stoneman: Thank you constituents for coming, it is meaningful. A question I have heard about this resolution is how does it connect to what we do as LSA SG? It falls out of bounds, some say. Speaker after speaker tonight all believe that what is tackled tonight is related to the community. We need to represent the students. We need to hear the voices of the people that urge us to act. Sharing personal stories and trauma is not an easy thing- it takes bravery. The fact that we are putting people in the position where they feel compelled to do so is not good. If you have hesitancy, please air it out in this space.
 5. Lydia Kado: I thank all for speaking about this issue, it comes from the heart of many of you. To speak your truth is brave and commendable. I want to echo what everyone has said before. This is not a political issue, it is an HR issue. It is our duty to stand up for these people as leaders on a college campus. For us to not release a statement would be disappointing. I hear all of you who are sharing messages.
- ii. Questions/Comments:
1. William Addison: Thank you all for coming and sharing. Even through Zoom it is hard to go over trauma. I want to apologize on LSA SG's behalf that we have not represented you. This dialogue is indicative of the University that I want to join; it states all the things we want to talk about.
 2. Jacob Cohen: To ask a question, the Whereas clause regarding when we can talk about political issues, can you explain this?
 - a. Farah: Thank you. The Counsel and I went through the Constitution and the Bylaws; nowhere does it say that we cannot take political stances. Regarding partisanship, we cannot be associated with any party. This statement dissents from both parties positions; neither call apartheid as it is in Israel. There is no rule about political stances. We are agreeing with Nobel Peace Prize and Israeli organizations about this issue. It is the most basic statement we can make.
 3. Vince Tedrick: We are not legitimizing violence, right? We are just condemning Israel's government, correct?
 - a. Farah: No, you are correct. We are not legitimizing violence. I do not think violence is appropriate to solve any issue. Many ask about why we don't condemn one regime or another. This is unique as we give a lot of aid to Israel. Nowhere does it talk about legitimizing violence, which I condemn quickly.

4. Jacob Cohen: J-Street is no longer a sponsor/endorser. What happened there?
 - a. Farah: I will not speak on their behalf, I know many of their members are in favor of it. They received a lot of pressure from Hillel to back out. I look forward to working with Hillel in the future to fuel dialogue about this. They are an incredible group with great people committed to peace.
- iii. Amendments: None
- iv. Cohen: Motion to open speakers list
 1. 3 min per speaker
 2. 1 speech each
 3. No speaker order
 - a. Second: Farah
 - b. Passed via unanimous consent
- v. Speakers' List:
 1. Lissette Ramos: If you voted against or abstained last week, ask yourself why. Palestinians were kicked out of their country. I was elected to serve those who have no voice. You are emotionally hurting a lot of people who need help the most.
 2. William Addison: As before, this is an important resolution for us to pass as an SG. It provides a stance to people without a voice on campus. We can speak for them. A Lot of people have commented that this does not change anything in the grand scheme of things but it does change things in our community, that is the power of this resolution. This could be a great start to this. Thank you again constituents.
 3. Zack Farah: Thank you to the first speaker, I found their comments moving. It takes courage to say things like that. Thank you to the constituents for coming; if you want to talk to me for any reason, contact me via the LSA SG website. I hope this passes; I know a lot of people are worried about this creating divisions in the community. They existed already; if you leave these conflicts, then they never get any better. We need to talk about how we are complicit in this system of apartheid. We are doing our part by furthering this dialogue. I hope that we can have the courage to pass this. If anyone here receives any sort of hate messages or harassment, please let me know. We need to stand with each other when that happens. Please bring it to us, or the Dean's Office. I thank everyone, and I hope we pass this tonight.
 4. Cohen: Point of order; time limit is near
 5. Cohen: Motion to extend time by 15 mins

- a. Second: Erik Williams
- b. Passed without objection
6. Vidhya-Ponraj: Vote by acc
 - a. Farah: Second
 - i. Neff: Objection; preferring a secret ballot vote.
 - b. On motion to vote on the main question by acclamation (motion by Vidhya-Ponraj): rescinded.
7. Neff: Vote by secret ballot
 - a. Cohen; Seconded
 - i. Passed without objection
8. Vote conducted in government GroupMe
 - a. Result: R F2021.06 Passed (17-3)

16. New Business

- a. *None*

17. Matters Arising

- a. Ramos: On behalf of those who were concerned, I want to thank everyone who voted for it. Let's continue to look out for each other and build a stronger community so we can help each other through what is going on in the world around us.
- b. Hamamy: It is sad that I thought that this resolution was not going to pass. I want to thank those that voted yes. For those that voted no, I have no words for you. I hope the hatred you have in your heart against POC will go away. Thank you to those that voted yes.
- c. Farah: Thank you all for participating in the discussion today. I hope one day we can discuss all issues without fear of harassment. Even if you disagree with the resolution and you want to talk about it. I encourage you all to give blood ASAP; if you need a ride, let me know! It saves lives, so let's do something good here.
- d. Cohen: I want to remind folks that it is easy to join LSA SG to affect issues on campus. We have a process to become an associate rep; you just need to attend 3/4 general meetings in a row. We also have a lot of committees; it is our hope that there will be a way to get things done through committees. Thank you all for being here.
- e. Watt: Thank you constituents for coming tonight! It was very enlightening and helpful to many.

18. Snaps

19. Closing Roll Call

i.	Watt, Tyler		xxiv.	Nelson, Erica	E
ii.	Farah, Zackariah		xxv.	Tam, Peter	E
iii.	Rifkin, Cameron		xxvi.	Chakraborti, Aditya	E
iv.	Cohen, Jacob		xxvii.	Addison, William	
v.	Theuerkauf, Caroline		xxviii.	Tedrick, Vincenzo (Vince)	
vi.	Rich, Sophia		xxix.	Neff, Ethan	
vii.	Salino, Sarah		xxx.	Burgaj, Roland (Ron)	
viii.	Goodsell, Alli	E	xxxi.	Vidhya-Ponraj, Mithun	
ix.	Hamamy, Salma		xxxii.	Juliao, Jordan	E
x.	McLean, Claudia	E	xxxiii.	Ramos, Lissette	
xi.	Rothstein, Kayla		xxxiv.	Smith, Lauren	E
xii.	Williams, Erik		xxxv.	Crews, Tiffany	
xiii.	Dai, Carol	E	xxxvi.	Berglund, Mollie	E
xiv.	Fioritto, Tyler	E	xxxvii.	Crespo, Maleny	E
xv.	Nguyen, Alex	E	xxxviii.	Hwang, Tae Won (Danny)	
xvi.	Altimemy, Zahraa	E		E	
xvii.	List, M. Riley	E	xxxix.	Mulliken, Ryan	E
xviii.	Jonaitis, Cody		xl.	Pierangeli, Cody	E
xix.	Stoneman, Max		xli.	Sommerfeld, Elizabeth	E
xx.	Slack, Caroline	E	xlii.	Wojtara, Magda	E
xxi.	Gunasekaran, Gaurie	E	xliii.	Torres, Gabriela	E
xxii.	Zhao, Suki	E	xliv.	Colvin, Anna	
xxiii.	Kado, Lydia	E	xlv.	Orleans, Louis	E

20. Adjournment

- a. Motion:
- b. *Second*: