



Student Senate

2017-2018 Academic Year

A resolution to encourage the implementation of a Middle Eastern and North African (ME/NA) racial category to allow the university to continue its commitment to an inclusive and diverse environment for students, faculty, and administration on campus.

Presented on September 21st 2017

Sponsors: Nourhan Hamadi

Co-Sponsors:

WHEREAS,

Wayne State University demonstrates a commitment to efforts of diversity and inclusion through implementation of strategies related to the plan for diversity and inclusion, ideas woven into our mission and our strategic plan, **AND**

WHEREAS,

as cited by the Strategic plan, Wayne State strives “to have an inclusive environment where diversity is valued broadly” and “we remain committed to improving the proportionate representation of groups who have historically suffered under-representation” and “seek to close the racial educational achievement gaps.”; **AND**

WHEREAS,

The Wayne State University Student Senate seeks to “identify progressive methods, which can be utilized by all students to encourage leadership, uphold student achievement, enhance campus-community life” **AND**

WHEREAS,

the Middle Eastern and North African (ME/NA) community has historically raised a concern that there is a lack of official recognition of their identity and existence, having to identify as White; **AND**

WHEREAS, in these cases, among others, ME/NA students must identify as White on the Census, CommonApp, University job applications, campus climate surveys, general demographic indications¹, etc;
AND

WHEREAS, the lack of institutional memory, documentation, and recognition regarding the historical presence of the ME/NA community on campus further illustrates the severity of the issue and disempowerment of ME/NA community;
AND

WHEREAS, the inability to collectively identify ME/NA students is problematic for a scope of issues including allocation of funding, official ceremonies, and bias incident reporting;

1. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the Assembly of the Wayne State University Student Senate recognizes the need for a ME/NA racial category to be created for use as a racial category on all University documents that collect racial and ethnic demographic data in order to identify the ME/NA community on our campus;

2. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** the Assembly of the Wayne State University Student Senate highly supports efforts to implement creation of the ME/NA racial category;

3. **AND FINALLY BE IT ORDERED,** the Wayne State University Student Senate will circulate this resolution to all relevant outlets, including the University President, University Vice Presidents, and University administration/officials.

Nourhan Hamadi
President

Dalia Ibrahim
Vice President

References

1. "Who are WSU's Students?" <https://wayne.edu/facts/2016/students/demographics/>