

Resolution #: 006

Drafted by: Ayleen Trejo

Sponsored By: Beatriz Espinoza

Approval Date: March 21, 2021

Purpose: Allow our SWANA identifying students to be represented and acknowledged.

California State University Channel Islands Resolution
in Support of the South West Asian and North African (SWANA) Students
March 2021

Whereas, as an entity of Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) of California State University, Channel Islands (CSUCI), Student Government is the recognized representative voice of the CI student body. As reflected in our mission statement, we serve, represent, and advocate for the students of CI;¹ and

Whereas, the mission of the Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) Board of Directors is to facilitate learning and development through integrative and co-curricular approaches and identifies and responds to major student issues and initiatives;² and

Whereas, CSUCI's Mission Statement states that "CSUCI provides undergraduate and graduate education that facilitates learning within and across disciplines through integrative approaches, emphasizes experiential and service learning, and graduates students with multicultural and international perspectives";³ and

Whereas, CSUCI's Institutional Mission-Based Learning Outcomes strive graduates to "Identify and describe the modern world and issues facing societies from multiple perspectives including those within and across disciplines, cultures and nations";⁴ and

Whereas, One of CSUCI's Four Pillars includes the Center for Multicultural Engagement (CME), which "aims to foster a campus climate, both inside the classroom as well as outside in our broader communities, valuing and respecting all forms of diversity";⁵ and

Whereas, CSUCI's President's Inclusive Excellence Council's goal is to "help shape institutional strategy on issues directly related to equity, justice, diversity, and inclusion,

¹ California State University, Channel Islands Associated Students, Incorporated, Student Government. *Mission Statement*. Retrieved from: <https://studentgov.csuci.edu/aboutus.htm>

² California State University, Channel Islands Associated Students, Incorporated. *Statement of Purpose*. Retrieved from: <https://asi.csuci.edu/asi-board.htm>

³ California State University, Channel Islands. *CI Mission Statement*. Retrieved from: <https://www.csuci.edu/about/mission.htm>

⁴ California State University, Channel Islands. *Institutional Mission-Based Learning Outcomes*. Retrieved from: <https://www.csuci.edu/about/mission.htm>

⁵ California State University, Channel Islands Center for Multicultural Engagement. *Message from the Faculty Director*. Retrieved from: <https://www.csuci.edu/cme/>

including the recommendation of initiatives, policies, and procedures with a specific focus on fostering inclusion, advancing a collegial campus environment, and eliminating student equity gaps”⁶; and

Whereas, Southwest Asian North Africa (SWANA), traditionally known as Middle East North Africa (MENA), is a geographical term that replaces non-inclusive terms, such as “Middle Eastern” or “Arab,” for the community;⁷ and

Whereas, the State of California has the largest number of SWANA identifying community members in the United States;⁸ and

Whereas, Cal State Apply classifies Southwest Asian and North African (SWANA) applicants as White which misrepresents the Caucasian data and does not allow for the equity gap to be addressed in the SWANA community;⁹ and

Whereas, SWANA community members do not identify as “Caucasian,” and the misclassification on the federal level is further perpetuating misclassifications within the California State University (CSU);¹⁰ and

Whereas, the CSU systematically collects data on race and ethnicity that does not allow proper representation for the SWANA community;¹¹ and

Whereas, the lack of demographic data on the SWANA community hinders effective advocacy, programming, other educational resources, and opportunities for students, faculty, and staff in this community;¹² and

Whereas, the Graduation Initiative 2025 goals are “formally established to include target rates for both first-year students and transfer students at the four-year and six-year markers while simultaneously eliminating equity gaps”;¹³ and

⁶ California State University, Channel Islands Office of the President. *President’s Advisory Council on Inclusive Excellence*. Retrieved from: <https://www.csuci.edu/president/ic/index.htm>

⁷ California State University, East Bay Associated Students Incorporated. *A Resolution in Support of the Southwest Asian North Africa Community*. Retrieved from: <https://www.csueastbay.edu/asi/files/docs/asi-government/resolutions/2020-2021/bod-2020-21-9r-resolution-in-support-of-the-southwest-asian-north-africa-community.pdf>

⁸ Arab America. California. Retrieved from: <https://www.arabamerica.com/california/>

⁹ Cal State Student Association. *Resolution in Support of Swana Students*.

¹⁰ *Ibido*.

¹¹ Cal State Apply. *Race & Ethnicity*. Retrieved from: https://help.liaisonedu.com/Cal_State_Apply_Applicant_Help_Center/Filling_Out_Your_Cal_State_Apply_Application/Cal_State_Apply_Personal_Information/5_Race_and_Ethnicity

¹² California State University, Fullerton Associated Students Incorporated. *A Resolution in Support of the Southwest Asian North Africa Community*. Retrieved from: <https://asi.fullerton.edu/wp-content/uploads/A-Resolution-In-Support-of-the-SWANA-Community.pdf>

¹³ The California State University. *Graduation Initiative Timeline*. Retrieved from: <https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/why-the-csu-matters/graduation-initiative-2025/What-Is-Graduation-Initiative-2025/Pages/Graduation->

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that with the adoption of this resolution, the Student Government recognizes the SWANA region as a separate group from the White racial category and stands in solidarity with the SWANA students, faculty, staff, and alumni in the CSU¹⁴; and let it be further

Resolved, the Student Government officially supports the SWANA community and the student's efforts to raise awareness and prioritize the issues of visibility and support; and

Resolved, that Student Government recommends that when CSUCI creates and administers a campus climate survey to include SWANA as a demographic option; and

Resolved, that Student Government recommends that the Division of Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Center for Multicultural Engagement, evaluates the CSUCI SWANA community's needs, and take the necessary steps to support the CSUCI SWANA community; and

Resolved, that Student Government strongly recommends that the CSUCI recognizes the SWANA community, and include the SWANA demographic options in all institutionalized data collection; and let it be therefore

Resolved, that Student Government shall continue to facilitate, promote, and advocate for the CSUCI SWANA community's needs.

[Initiative-Timeline.aspx#:~:text=Graduation%20Initiative%202025%20goals%20are,while%20simultaneously%20eliminating%20equity%20gaps.](#)

¹⁴ California State University, East Bay Associated Students Incorporated. *A Resolution in Support of the Southwest Asian North Africa Community*. Retrieved from: <https://www.csueastbay.edu/asi/files/docs/asi-government/resolutions/2020-2021/bod-2020-21-9r-resolution-in-support-of-the-southwest-asian-north-africa-community.pdf>