STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2015-107

Title: Resolution supporting the creation of the Middle Eastern Studies Minor

AUTHORS: Adam Samei

SPONSORS: Senate President Davis Bean, Senate Pro Tempore Leah Miller, Senator Charlie Brown, Sameer Sabounqi, Senator Michael Christ, Judiciary Committee

WHEREAS, Middle Eastern Studies is a field of intellectual inquiry that examines the diverse experience of Middle Eastern people including their literatures, cultures, religions, histories, racial and gender identities, political participations, and their relationships with other Middle Eastern diasporas; and,

WHEREAS, students in the Iranian Student Association and Arab Student Association have been very enthusiastic to have a minor and have met several times with faculty to initiate the process; and,

WHEREAS, a minor in Middle Eastern Studies would enhance the University of Florida’s reputation and preeminent standing as an institution committed to promoting new fields of study and would make higher education more multicultural and reflective of the diversity of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, a minor in Middle Eastern Studies would uphold the University of Florida’s Commitment to Diversity, which states that the University of Florida is committed to creating a community that reflects the rich racial, cultural, and ethnic diversity of the state and nation\(^1\); and,

WHEREAS, education on other geographical regions of the world will give students the opportunity to expand their knowledge as well as potentially reduce racial discrimination and ignorance of other ethnicities; and,

WHEREAS, at the University of Florida there exists many cultural minors such as African American Studies, Latino Studies, Jewish Studies, and American Indian and Indigenous Studies; and,

\(^1\) [http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=1215](http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=1215)
WHEREAS, based on curriculum standards, the Middle Eastern Studies Minor would require a total of fifteen credits with six credits in social sciences, six credits in humanities, and three credits in elective courses; and,

WHEREAS, faculty members of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have drafted a proposal that will be sent to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and,

WHEREAS, all the required courses for the Middle Eastern Studies Minor are already being offered and are serving other majors such as English, Religion, Political Science, and Women’s Studies; then,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages University of Florida Administration and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to support the creation of a Middle Eastern Studies Minor; and,

THEREFORE LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages University of Florida administration and the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to approve the final proposal for a minor in Middle Eastern Studies.

Proviso: a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the members of the University Board of Trustees, the University President, Provost, the Curriculum Committee, the members of the Board of Governors of the State, Dean of College of Liberal Arts and Sciences David Richardson, and Dr. Patricia Woods

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Davis Bean Date
Senate President