From: **Yahya Hafez** <yhafez3@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 17, 2017 at 7:25 PM
Subject: Re: MENA/SWANA box
To: Evelyn Alsultany <alsultan@umich.edu>
Cc: Jad Elharake <jelharak@umich.edu>

Hello Jad,

Thank you Dr. Alsultany for connecting us. This sounds really exciting and I'm sure it's the culmination of a lot of hard work. I've attached a few of the resources we've used to this e-mail for your reference. The "SWANA Admission 12'14" excel document will show you the final categories that were included in the UC-wide implementation of the SWANA checkbox in the UC system (not all of them are mentioned in the presentation, which is why I'm including this). I've also included the powerpoint presentation we used which includes speaker notes that you can refer to and a separate word document with the script as well. The formatting on the powerpoint is off, but looks better on the PDF document.

At UCSD, we didn't have much difficulty getting it passed our first time around. I believe it was passed either unanimously or with 1 "no" vote or abstention. Generally speaking, our student government fluctuates between "liberal" and "progressive", though that doesn't necessarily mean they're strong around SWANA issues, but there weren't much "controversial" points that were brought up, or at least none that weren't addressed in our presentation. Dr. Alsultany mentioned in a previous e-mail that you all have had some trouble with your efforts at UM. I'm not too sure what the composition of the student government there is like or what the opposition is like either or what their arguments may be, but if you let me know about any of that, I'd be happy to support you with potential responses and strategies. I'm also not too sure what the current set-up is for the vote on Tuesday will be, but you can try reaching out to the senator sponsoring the resolution to see if the student government can allocate time for a "special presentation" where you present around the issue. If you would like, you can use the presentation I've sent you, though you'd have to tailor it to UM for sure and to the language of your resolution (MENA vs. SWANA). Organizers at UC Berkeley were the ones who provided the presentations and transcripts that we used and have given us permission to use them, so if you do use them, be sure to give them credit for it as well. The speaker notes should be helpful for talking points as well, though you might want to pick and choose what's most strategic to mention.

One note is that the reason we worded the resolution using SWANA (Southwest Asian and North African) as opposed to using "Middle Eastern" is to decenter the geographical colonial relationship that's part of the term in favor a more geographic term. In other words, the terms "Middle East" defines the region as "Eastern" when in relation to the U.S., while the other popular term, "Near East", defines it in relation to Europe. SWANA defines it in relation to continental formations, which also have colonial roots as far as how the boundaries of continents were established, but they don't have the issue of defining the region in purely by its geographical relation to the West. It's just one way we deenter colonialism and imperialism. Nonetheless, Middle East is still the more widely recognized term and moving towards SWANA is just one additional political statement that can be made if you all so choose and are still able and wanting to do that. I'm sure it's too late in the process to have a conversation around terminology with all the folks who worked around organizing this resolution which is okay, but I just wanted to explain the reasoning behind those differences.

I hope this helps. I'm happy to answer any specific questions you have!

All power to the people,

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