UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ENGINEERING STUDENT GOVERNMENT

AN ENGINEERING STUDENT GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A ME/NA RACIAL CATEGORY

WHEREAS, the University has demonstrated a commitment to efforts of diversity and inclusion through implementation of strategies related to the plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)[1]; **AND**

WHEREAS, as cited by the DEI plan, Michigan strives "to broaden its diversity and strengthen its inclusiveness" and "our strong tradition of student activism and striving for change" has "led us to this next concerted effort to create a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment for our entire campus community"[1]; **AND**

WHEREAS, the U-M Engineering Student Government (ESG) seeks to "guarantee advocation on behalf of engineering students to both internal and external entities, to foster a community of inclusivity and collaboration among the student body, and to support engineering student activities and initiatives."[2]; **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 on campus, having to identify as white; **AND**

WHEREAS, in these cases, among others, ME/NA students must identify as white on the Census, CommonApp, Graduate school applications, University job applications, etc.[3]; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Islamophobia Working Group (IWG) has identified this issue as a key area of concern[4]; **AND**

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[1] DEI Strategic Plan
[2] ESG Constitution
[3] Michigan Law Review: PROPOSED RECLASSIFICATION OF ARAB AMERICANS ON THE 2020 CENSUS
[4] Islamophobia Working Group DEI Report

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; **AND**

WHEREAS, students within the IWG and ME/NA community have met with Dr. Kedra Ishop, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management; and Erica Sanders, Director of Undergraduate Admissions; **AND**

WHEREAS, these concerns have neither been resolved nor prioritized as we have been met with logistical and bureaucratic explanations for inaction; **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, ESG 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; **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, ESG supports all efforts to implement creation of the ME/NA racial category; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, this resolution will be sent to Dr. Mark Schlissel, President; Dr. Royster Harper, Vice President for Student Life; Dr. Robert Sellers, Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer; Dr. Paul Courant, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Kedra Ishop, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management; the Office of the Registrar; and the Graduate Admissions Board voicing student support for the creation of a ME/NA racial category.

Authors

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*Engineering Student Government (ESG) officially supports all efforts, as detailed in this resolution, to implement the creation of the ME/NA racial category.