LSA STUDENT GOVERNMENT
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

***College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government***
**Executive Board and Sponsors**
**G325 Mason Hall, 525 S. State Street**
**Ann Arbor, MI 48109**
**sg.exec@umich.edu**

**29th October, 2017**

***Mark Schlissel, President of the University of Michigan***
**2074 Fleming Administration Building,**
**503 Thompson Street,**
**Ann Arbor, MI 48109**

Dear President Schlissel,

On October 26th the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government passed a resolution in support of the addition of a Middle Eastern/North African option on all University of Michigan and College of LSA documentation and applications that request racial and/or ethnic information – joining the Central Student Government, Engineering Student Government, and other student governing bodies.

Students who identify as being Middle Eastern/North African currently are forced to identify either as Caucasian, African, or Asian on nearly all University or College documents that ask for racial or ethnic information. This not only denies the identities that these students hold, but further hampers these communities and the University at large from being able to study and understand the needs and status of these communities on campus.

With current efforts related to both the University and College of LSA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plans underway, LSA Student Government believes that the institutional denial of the existence of this community on campus is one that needs to be corrected in order to not only embrace the ideals of the DEI plan, but further enhance and invigorate efforts surrounding it.

The Executive Board and the Sponsors of this resolution would like to ask for your support on this project to ensure that all students feel welcome and recognized by the University and College of LSA. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

LSA Student Government

**R F2017.10**

**A Resolution Advocating for the Addition of a Middle Eastern/North African (ME/NA) Category**

*A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government*

October 11, 2017

Sponsors: Patrick Miller, Brian Wang, Nicholas Fadanelli, Ryan Gillcrist, Amal Alzendani, and Alex Paradowski

**Whereas,** the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to "actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life";[1] and,

**Whereas,** it is the duty of the University of Michigan (hereafter the University) to provide an inclusive environment for all students, including those with marginalized identities; and,

**Whereas,** the mission of DEI is to "enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion at the University of Michigan," which includes diversity of race and ethnicity;[2] and,

**Whereas,** Middle Eastern and North African (hereafter ME/NA) communities have been historically marginalized in American society; and,

**Whereas,** the Islamophobia Working Group has identified this issue as an important area of concern;[3] and,

**Whereas,** the United States Census Bureau is expected to add a ME/NA category in the United States 2020 Census;[4] and,

**Whereas,** ME/NA students at the University are currently required to select "white" on the Common App, Graduate school applications, job applications, when selecting their ethnicity on Wolverine Access, etc.;[5] and,

**Whereas,** students of this identity frequently raise concerns that there is no recognition of their community on campus due to the lack of a ME/NA option.

**Be it therefore resolved,** LSA SG calls upon the University to include a ME/NA option on all documentation and applications that request racial and ethnic information; and,

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[1] The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II
[2] DEI Strategic Plan
[3] Islamophobia Working Group DEI Report
[4] http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/census-bureau-considering-new-category-arab-americans-2020-count/
[5] Proposed Reclassification of Arab Americans of Arab Americans on the 2020 Census

**Be it finally resolved,** LSA SG will send a letter to the University President Mark Schlissel, Vice President E. Royster Harper, Provost Martin Philbert, Vice Provost for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Robert Sellers, LSA Dean Andrew Martin, LSA Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education Angela Dillard, LSA Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Fiona Lee, Chair of Islamophobia Working Group Evelyn Alsultany, and SACUA Chair Robert Ortega, in order to bring this issue to their attention and to promote further discussion over the topic.