



**Associated Students, SJSU, Board of Directors' Resolution 20/21-05**  
**Resolution in Support of South Western Asian and North African**  
**Addition to Cal State Apply (SWANA)**

- Whereas,** it is the mission of Associated Students of San José State University to represent the students of San José State University and continually improve the quality of their educational opportunity and experience; and
- Whereas,** Associated Students (A.S.) is the official voice of over 33,000 students at San José State University (SJSU); and
- Whereas,** SJSU's mission statement states, "In collaboration with nearby industries and communities, SJSU faculty and staff are dedicated to achieving the university's mission as a responsive institution of the state of California: To enrich the lives of its students, to transmit knowledge to its students along with the necessary skills for applying it in the service of our society, and to expand the base of knowledge through research and scholarship."<sup>1</sup>; and
- Whereas,** SJSU was ranked #1 as the "Most Transformative College" by Money Magazine<sup>2</sup>; and
- Whereas,** As outlined in Graduation Initiative 2025 which outlines a goal to "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"; and
- Whereas,** the CSU Board of Trustees "adopts regulations and policies governing the entire CSU system. Board committees have authority over educational policy, finance, campus planning, and facilities, among other areas<sup>3</sup>;" and
- Whereas,** the current CSU application requests applicants to select their race to best describe their racial background, but 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; and <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> San Jose States Mission Statement:

<sup>2</sup> Money- "Most Transformative Colleges"

<https://money.com/best-colleges/rankings/most-transformative-colleges/>

<sup>3</sup> The California State University. Board of Trustees. Retrieved from:

<https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/board-of-trustees>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply>



- Whereas,** the classification of North Africans, Middle Easterners, and at times South Asians, as “Caucasian,” is a manifestation of the historic racialization of minority groups within the United States and the exclusion of persons of Middle Eastern descent from this discourse; and <sup>5</sup>
- Whereas,** SWANA is a geographical term that replaces non-inclusive terms such as Middle East North Africa (MENA), Middle Eastern, or Arab; and
- Whereas,** over 3.5 million SWANA people live in the United States, with the state of California having the largest population of SWANA residents; and <sup>6</sup>
- Whereas,** there are a vast majority of SWANA students who can not be identified from the 107,932 students who applied as White, and 19,390 who applied as Other on Cal State Apply; and <sup>7</sup>
- Whereas,** “A better sense of belonging among students at four-year institutions leads to higher rates of personal and academic successes later in their college experiences”; and <sup>8</sup>
- 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; and <sup>9</sup>
- Whereas,** education, celebration, and recognition of the SWANA identity could lead to reduced stigma and discrimination in the CSU derived from the lack of cultural knowledge and awareness; and <sup>10</sup>
- Whereas,** Executive Order 0318 controls the reporting of data on student ethnicity, and states “comply with state and federal reporting requirements and to assist in campus planning” and that campuses should align their ethnic surveying with their application’s methods; and
- Whereas,** the Undergraduate Students Association Council of University of California, Los Angeles adopted A Resolution in Support of the Creation of a Southwest Asian and North African Checkbox on the University of California Application; and

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<sup>5</sup> <https://asi.fullerton.edu/wp-content/uploads/A-Resolution-In-Support-of-the-SWANA-Community.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.arabamerica.com/california/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www2.calstate.edu/csu-system/about-the-csu/facts-about-the-csu/enrollment/Pages/fall-2019-enrollment.aspx>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.studyinternational.com/news/sense-of-belonging/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://usac.ucla.edu/documents/resolutions/UCLA%20SWANA%20Resolution.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.un.org/en/events/culturaldiversityday/pdf/Investing\\_in\\_cultural\\_diversity.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/events/culturaldiversityday/pdf/Investing_in_cultural_diversity.pdf)



- Whereas,** the Associated Students Incorporated of the University of California, East Bay adopted a Resolution in Support of a Southwest Asian and North African Community; and
- Whereas,** the Associated Students Incorporated of the University of California, Fullerton adopted a Resolution in Support of a Southwest Asian and North African Community; and
- Whereas,** the current University of California application provides applicants the opportunity to select the ethnicity that best describes their ethnic background; and
- Whereas,** the University of California tracks the number of SWANA students within their system through their application<sup>11</sup>; therefore let it be
- Resolved,** That in adopting this resolution, SJSU's Associated Students officially and devotedly stand in solidarity with the SWANA community and support it's students, staff, and faculty's efforts to garner awareness and center the issues of visibility and support; and
- Resolved,** Associated Students recommends that SJSU integrate SWANA as a demographic in all future modalities that utilize data collection that ask respondents for their region of origin this includes and is not limited to student surveys, announcements, and scholarships; and
- Resolved,** Associated Students recommends that SJSU's Student Affairs in collaboration with the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion identify and evaluate SJSU's SWANA community needs and articulate the necessary steps to support the SWANA community's students and staff
- Resolved,** Associated Students recommend that student support auxiliaries articulate programming that supports and reflects the SWANA community; and
- Resolved,** Associated Students encourages the CSU and SJSU to continue to promote diversity and inclusion through vigilantly understanding and updating Cal State vernacular and institutionalized data collection to include and represent all students who make up the CSU
- Resolved,** Associated Students encourages the California State Student Association (CSSA) to advocate for all California State University applications to include Southwest Asian

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/sites/default/files/Race-Eth%20Data%20Collection.pdf>



North African demographic options similar to the University of California applications; and

**Resolved,** strongly recommends CSSA advocate to include the SWANA demographic options in all institutionalized data collection at the Chancellor's Office, state, and federal levels; and

**The following Countries should be recognized as apart of but not limited to the Southwest Asian North African (SWANA) Community:**

Algerian, Afghan, Armenian Assyrian/Chaldean Azerbaijani, Bahraini, Berber, Circassian, Djiboutian, Egyptian, Emirati, Georgian, Iranian, Iraqi, Israeli, Jordanian, Kurdish, Kuwaiti, Lebanese, Libyan, Mauritanian, Moroccan, Omani, Palestinian, Qatari, Saudi Arabian, Somali, Sudanese, Syrian, Tunisian, Turkish, Yemeni, Other North African, Other Southwest Asian

**Resolved,** That Associated Students will make this document public and will forward this resolution to all affected parties, including: all board members of the **CSU Board of Trustees, Joseph Castro** (*Chancellor, CSU*), **Mary Papazian** (*President of San José State University*), **Lisa Millora** (*Vice President for Strategy and Chief of Staff*), **Patrick Day** (*Vice President for Student Affairs*), **Jahmal Williams** (*Director of Advocacy for Racial Justice*), **Kathleen Wong(Lau)** (*Chief Diversity Officer, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*), **Theresa Davis** (*Vice President for University Advancement*), **Vincent Del Casino** (*Provost of San José State University*), **Charlie Faas** (*Vice President of Administration and Finance*), **Gavin Newsom** (*Governor, California*), **California State Student Association Board of Directors, Ro Khanna** (*U.S. Congressman, 17th District*), **Zoe Lofgren** (*U.S Congresswoman, 19th District*), **Dave Cortese** (*CA State Senator, 15th District*), **Ash Kalra** (*CA State Assemblyman, 27th District*), **Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, Sam Liccardo** (*Mayor, San José*), **The Spartan Daily, SJSU Muslim Student Association, Habesha Students Association, Lebanese Social Club, Saudi Student Association, Students for Justice in Palestine**

Respectfully submitted by:  
Kadence Skye Walker, Director of Legislative Affairs  
[Cristopher Acosta](#), Director of Intercultural Affairs



A.S. Lobby Corps

**Passed and Adopted by the Associated Students of San José State University  
Board of Directors at a regular meeting held April 14, 2021 by a vote of  
12-Yea 0-Nay 0-Abstention 0-Absent**

DocuSigned by:

*Brendan Quock*

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5/14/2021

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Brendan Quock, Vice President and Chair  
Associated Students, SJSU

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Date

### **Adapted from**

Dhillon, K. and Carmona, J., 2021. *Resolution in Support of South Western Asian and North African Community*. [online] Csueastbay.edu. Available at: <<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>>.

CSSA

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ClayS73Do8gu5Y3\\_sQ5c6g6RC8bKGz\\_u/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ClayS73Do8gu5Y3_sQ5c6g6RC8bKGz_u/view?usp=sharing)