



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

73RD STUDENT SENATE Senate Resolution

Resolution #: 8

Primary Sponsor: Ahmad Daraldik

Whereas: Arab and Muslim students at Florida State University are currently underrepresented within student government, and within the administration, and

Whereas: We do not condone and request that the Florida State University Student Government Association Student Senate, Executive Branch, and the Florida State University Administration rescind their support for the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Definition of Antisemitism, and

Whereas: We assure the student body that we, Student Senators of Florida State University, will continue to advocate for Arab and Muslim students on campus. As Arab, Muslim, and Allied students do not have an easily accessible Halal options available to us at Florida State University dining halls, Arab and Muslim cultural and religious observances are not considered properly by the administration faculty and student government when planning events, and in the Summer and Fall of 2020 we faced higher than usual Islamophobia and Anti-Arab racism in the spaces we are present in, and

Whereas: We acknowledge every student who bravely spoke at the senate meeting against the vote of no confidence on the Senate President with Arab and Muslim heritage, along with those who have reached out to their Senators personally, and

Whereas: We recognize that the statements made by many Senators and Administrators caused deep hurt and fear to the Arab and Muslim communities, as well as to many other students at Florida State University. Hateful rhetoric in any form is unacceptable, whether intentional or not it is our duty to represent each unique identity, perspective, and community at Florida State University, and

Whereas: We affirm that as Senators we will continue to advocate and do better for the thousands of Arab and Muslim students on the Florida State University's campus. We as student leaders must be held to the highest standard, and in a representative position of power, we must be actively educating ourselves on the identities, perspectives, and struggles of those that we represent, and

Whereas: This has highlighted the need for diversity and bias training in the Senate, which we are actively working to implement and encourage inside and outside the chambers. We acknowledge the need to engage and spearhead difficult conversations and through trainings to further foster the culture of diversity and inclusion that Florida State University promises, and

Whereas: We vow to continue to represent the diverse student body, and to acknowledge that progress is made only through unity, collaboration, and education. It is our goal as student representatives to move forward together through engagement, dialogue, and action, and

Whereas: The Student Senate, Student Government, and Florida State University needs to take both short- and long-term action to ensure that Florida State University is a just, fair, and welcoming place for all students, but more specifically for Arab and Muslim students,

Be it resolved by the Seventy-Third Student Senate at Florida State University that:

The Senate is hereby committed to the following:

1. Immediately appointing a senate liaison to Arab and Muslim RSOs to increase Arab and Muslim communication and representation within Student Government in line with Senate Rule 2.8.
2. Holding all members of the Student Government Association accountable to being educated on Arab and Muslim culture and islamophobia and anti-Arab racism through communication with the Arab and Muslim communities on campus.
3. Supporting the creation of a task force with Florida State University's administration and Alumni Association to advise on policies that impact Florida State University's Arab and Muslim communities and engage Arab and Muslim students at Florida State University

Be it further resolved that:

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the following:

- John Thrasher, President of Florida State University
- Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President of Student Affairs
- Jonathan Levin, Florida State University Student Body President
- Nastassia Janvier, Student Body Vice President of Florida State University
- Julie Decker, President and CEO of the FSU Alumni Association
- Dr. Brandon Bowden, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs
- Da'Shaun Scott, Student Program Coordinator, Student Affairs- SGA Florida State University
- Fathima Kazia, Muslim Student Association President
- Tala Habash, Arab Student Union President
- Zeina Schlenoff, Arab Student Union Advisor
- Joseph Hellweg, Associate Professor of Religion

OFFICIAL: _____

DocuSigned by:

Alexander Harmon

3/10/2021 | 9:26 AM EST

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Student Senate President

**SENATE VOTE: 41Y – 0N – 1A
PASSED: February 3rd, 2021**