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Summers, Mandi, "SB20-11/12: Arabic Minor" (2011). *Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present*. 158.
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The Associated Students of The University of Montana
Resolution Regarding Arabic Minor
December 7, 2011
Senate Bill Number: SB20-11/12
Authored by: Mandi Summers, ASUM Senator
Sponsored by: Damara Simpson, Matt Haefner, Travis Suzuki and Mariah Williams, ASUM Senators; and Jeffrey Edmunds, ASUM Vice President

Whereas, The University of Montana’s Arabic Language program has seen interest and enrollment consistently rise in thirteen years of instruction;

Whereas, the Arabic Language program saw substantial growth warranting the first year level to be incorporated into two sections;

Whereas, The University of Montana’s Academic Standards and Curriculum Review Committee (ASCRC) approved a proposal for a Central and Southwest Asian Studies major involving two years of language study in a critical language;

Whereas, Arabic is one of the United States Department of State’s designated critical languages;

Whereas, in the spring of 2009, a majority of the 150 letters sent from students to members of ASCRC to support the Central and Southwest Asia Studies Major included a request for an Arabic minor;

Whereas, in the spring of 2009, over 400 student signatures were gathered in support of the creation for an Arabic minor;

Whereas, numerous students have benefited ~~through scholarships~~ as a result of their studies *from including* scholarships from the Mansfield Center and the US Department of State’s Critical Language Scholarship;

Whereas, an Arabic Language Studies minor fulfills The University of Montana’s mission statement and encourages diversity;

Whereas, the Central and Southwest Asia Studies Department has acquired a tenured professor, thus meeting the curriculum requirements of said minor;

Whereas, by May 2012 the curriculum will have been completed by graduating students who will not receive certifications of completion for their work at The University of Montana,

Whereas, in the last four years, four prior Senates have passed resolutions in support of the creation of this academic minor;

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Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM) encourages the formation of an Arabic Language Studies Minor at The University of Montana and stresses the importance of prompt action;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that ASUM ~~encourages~~ *recognizes the efforts of* the Office of the Provost and the President of The University of Montana, and *encourages* The Montana State Board of Regents to ~~investigate and~~ support the formation of an Arabic Language Studies minor;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be distributed to all necessary parties *including the Board of Regents*.

Passed by Committee: _____, 2010

Passed by Senate: _____, 2010

Travis Suzuki,
Relations and Affairs Chair

Jeffrey Edmunds,
Chair of the Senate