SB27-16/17: Resolution Regarding the Critical Language of Arabic

Anisa Ricci
The Associated Students of the University of Montana

Resolution Regarding the Critical Language of Arabic

SB27-16/17

October 8, 2016

Authored by: Anisa Ricci, ASUM Senator;
Sponsored by: Julian Adler, ASUM Senator;

Whereas, the University of Montana (UM) offers an interdisciplinary minor in Arabic Studies;

Whereas, Arabic has been designated as a critical language by the US Department of State;

Whereas, such a designation entitles programs and students involved with the language to unique scholarship and funding opportunities from the federal government and other organizations;

Whereas, many critical language alumni from UM have gone on to win prestigious national scholarships such as the Fulbright, Critical Language, and Mitchell Scholarships, enhancing UM’s reputation for academic excellence;

Whereas, the summer high school program Montana Arabic Summer Institute (MASI), has graduated over 100 students in the past, most of whom show interest in taking college-level Arabic courses at UM-Missoula after finishing high school;

Whereas, a great deal of Arabic enrollment increase was the result of recruitment efforts at Missoula high schools and the establishment of an Arabic Language Program in Missoula County Public Schools;

Whereas, the aforementioned programs are partially funded by the US Federal Government through a National Security Agency grant;

Whereas, decrease in course availability for future semesters deters enrollment in Arabic courses;

Whereas, the Arabic 102 course has historically been offered during two sections in the Spring each year;

Whereas, the Arabic 102 course currently has only one section offering this Spring;

Whereas, Arabic is a small language program and any factor inhibiting enrollment in introductory sections can threaten the long-term viability of student recruitment for the expanding program;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that ASUM requests that the current number of sections of the program be maintained;
Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that two sections of introductory level Arabic 102 be offered in the Spring of 2016;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to: Dr. Khaled Huthaily, Chair of the Arabic Department; Professor Samir Bitar, Arabic Department Professor; Elizabeth Ametsbichler, Chair Modern Classical Languages and Literatures Department; Chris Comer, Dean of College of Humanities and Sciences; Beverly Edmond, Interim Provost; and Royce Engstrom, President of the University of Montana.

Passed by Committee: ______________________________, 2016

Passed by ASUM Senate: ___________________________, 2016

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Connor Fitzpatrick                  Elizabeth Engebretson
Chair of Relations & Affairs        Chair of the Senate