

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2019-1085

TITLE: Student Senate Resolution Supporting the Goals and Objectives of the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Task Force at the University of Florida

AUTHOR(S): Senator Rebecca Ragan, APIDA Task Force Chair Vibhor Nayar

SPONSOR(S): Senator Kristen Jackson, Senator Zachary Amrose, Senator Kevin Trejos, Ashley Grabowski

WHEREAS, UF Centers for African Studies, Latin American Studies, and European Studies exist while no center exists for Asian or Asian American Studies; and, [1]

WHEREAS, Asian American Studies (AAS) is an academic discipline that focuses on the historical and contemporary issues regarding the Asian diaspora in the United States; and, [2]

WHEREAS, the AAS minor examines the diverse experience of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders in the U.S., including their literature, cultures, religions, histories, racial and gender identities, political participation, and their relationships to their homelands and other Asian diasporas; and, [3]

WHEREAS, the AAS certificate was launched in 2004, and the AAS minor was launched in 2013; and, [4]

WHEREAS, none of the core courses advertised within the minor currently have Gen Ed status, thus students must utilize excess hours to enroll in the minor; and, [5]

WHEREAS, the AAS minor is currently housed under the English Department, though required courses span across multiple CLAS disciplines; and, [2]

WHEREAS, the current UF registration system does not allow for course filtration through “Major” or “Minor”, thus systematically hurting enrollment in the AAS minor courses; and, [5]

WHEREAS, the current AAS minor websites have not been updated with accurate course availability information since Fall 2016, thus hurting AAS minor enrollment; and, [3] [6]

WHEREAS, Beginning Korean is being taught as a pilot test program for the Fall 2019 semester; and,

WHEREAS, Hindi is the fourth largest language in the world, but has not been taught at UF since 2008; and, [7]

WHEREAS, Bengali is the sixth largest language in the world, but is not taught at UF; and, [7]

WHEREAS, Punjabi is the ninth largest language in the world, but is not taught at UF; and, [7]

WHEREAS, Urdu is the twentieth largest language in the world, but is not taught at UF; and, [7]

WHEREAS, Telugu is the twelfth largest language in the world, but is not taught at UF; and, [7]

WHEREAS, Tamil is the nineteenth largest language in the world, but is not taught at UF; and, [7]

WHEREAS, Farsi is the twenty-third largest language in the world, but is not taught at UF; and, [7]

WHEREAS, “Middle Eastern” is not a demographic that is represented within the new race and ethnicity standards for the University of Florida, hurting data collection for the university and essentially displacing the identity of a demographic that spans 3 continents and multiple UF standards for race; and, [8] [9]

WHEREAS, the Asian American population grew by almost 71% in Florida from 2000-2010 and 43% in the U.S.; and, [10]

WHEREAS, between 2010 and 2017, the U.S. overall Asian population grew by 5%. During this same time, the Asian American immigrant population grew 23%, over twice as fast as the entire immigrant population (11%) and over four times as fast as the overall population. Within Florida, the Asian American and Pacific Islander population grew by 28%, allowing the AAPI population to represent Florida with roughly 400,000 individuals; and, [11]

WHEREAS, APIDA affiliated students consist of the second-highest minority demographic on campus, consisting of over 4000 students not including international students while APIDA affiliated faculty are the biggest minority faculty demographic on campus with over 750 members; and, [12]

WHEREAS, APIDA affiliated international students consist of an even higher demographic on campus, according to the 2016 UF International Center data, consisting of over 5,700 students; then, [13]

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance and supports the introduction and reintroduction of South Asian and West Asian concentrations within the Foreign Languages and Literatures Program.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of and supports the accreditation of the Asian American Studies minor.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the facilitation of student class registration through the implementation of “Major” and “Minor” filters for the Schedule of Courses.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need for “Middle Eastern” to become a separate ethnicity category for the Race and Ethnicity standards of the University of Florida.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the enhancement, support, and increased resource and faculty allocation to any and all Asian and Asian American Studies programs.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the creation and establishment of a Center for Asian and Asian American Studies at the University of Florida.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Provost Dr. Joseph Glover, Dean of Students Dr. Heather White, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Associate Provost Dr. Zina Evans, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs Dr. Angela Lindner, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Winfred M. Phillips, Director of Curriculum Monitoring and Analysis Dr. Tobin Shorey, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Dr. David E. Richardson, Associate Dean for Humanities of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dr. David A. Pharies, English Department Chair Dr. Sid Dobrin, and Office of Undergraduate Affairs Academic Services Coordinator Casey Griffith.

- [1] <http://centers.ufl.edu/>
- [2] <https://english.ufl.edu/programs/undergraduate-programs/asian-american-studies-minor/>
- [3] https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/AAS_UMN/
- [4] <https://approval.ufl.edu/reports/>
- [5] <https://one.uf.edu/soc/>
- [6] <http://asianamericanstudies.clas.ufl.edu/minor-overview/sample-page-2/>
- [7] <https://www.ethnologue.com/statistics/size>
- [8] <https://ir.aa.ufl.edu/surveys/race-and-ethnicity-survey/#NewRaceandEthnicityStandards>
- [9] <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2007-10-19/pdf/E7-20613.pdf>
- [10] <http://www.bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/sites/default/files/Florida%27s%20Asian-American%20voters%20final.pdf>
- [11] <https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/publication/inside-numbers-how-immigration-shapes-asian-american-and-pacific-islander-communities>
- [12] <https://ir.aa.ufl.edu/uffacts/enrollment-1/>
- [13] <https://www.ufic.ufl.edu/OpenDoorsISS.html>