

## **STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-XXXX**

**TITLE:** Resolution Supporting Islam On Campus' Islam Appreciation Month and Broco/Sisco Programming

**AUTHOR(S):** Senator Isha Khan

**SPONSOR(S):** Senator Raj Mia, Senator Hunter Monson, Senator Arturo Zárrate, Senator Anghelo Gangano, Minority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton, Islam On Campus President Omar Ateyah, Pakistan Student Association Secretary Taimoor Nawaz, VISA Vice President of Internal Affairs Hana Ali,

**WHEREAS,** Islam Appreciation Month, or IAM, is an annual event centered around spotlighting and sharing the message of Islam for the last decade [1]; and,

**WHEREAS,** the specific events "IAM Main Event #1", "IAM Main Event #2", "IAM Main Event #3", and "IAM Finale Banquet make up the entirety of IAM programming"; and,

**WHEREAS,** Amid national tensions, there has been a substantial increase in Islamophobia in the United States, including a 417% increase in online hate speech against Muslim communities [2]; and,

**WHEREAS,** Islamic Community Center of Gainesville was vandalized, with someone breaking the windows of the center on January 4th, 2024 [3]; and,

**WHEREAS,** Islam On Campus relies on IAM to help destigmatize Islam bridge the gap between Muslims and Non-Muslims [4]; and,

**WHEREAS,** Islam On Campus' visibility as an organization for students by students is essential for remaining as an organization that serves as a student-led community for Muslims as well as a safe space for on-Muslims; and,

**WHEREAS,** IAM also serves as a way to strengthen the bonds between members of Islam on Campus, as volunteers for IAM work together and share the message and beauty of Islam; and,

**WHEREAS,** IAM events, specifically IAM Fair, typically receive heavy foot traffic from both muslim and non-muslim students for a total of 3,000 students visiting various booths centered around the various aspects of Islam as well as Islamic culture; and,

**WHEREAS,** the materials necessary for IAM events are crucial to the smooth running of various IAM Events, including English and Spanish translated Qurans, food and refreshments,

various activity booths during IAM fair, and various collaborations with the local Gainesville community; and,

**WHEREAS**, “Broco/Sisco Event 3” is an internal event within IOC aimed at strengthening the brotherhood and sisterhood, respectfully, and allow fellow Muslims to rely on one another for support, especially during tumultuous times; and,

**WHEREAS**, during the Student Organization Operational, Event, and Travel Requests process commencement on October 25, 2023, and subsequent biannual review of said requests for approval based on Title VIII statutes by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee in November and December of 2023, Islam On Campus faced challenges in acquiring the necessary funding for this pivotal community event programming; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is the mission of the University of Florida Student Government “to tirelessly advocat[e] on behalf of the student body, enhancing the entire student experience and promoting the image of the university and its students [...]” [5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, recognizing this mission, it is the solemn duty of the University of Florida Student Senate to ensure the unwavering support of Islam On Campus and their IAM and Broco/Sisco event programming; now,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate commemorates the Islam On Campus’ IAM event programming, recognizing the profound impact the programming imparts on the university community; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate steadfastly supports the allocation of Student Government reserve transfer funds to ensure the securement of the Islam On Campus’ Islam Appreciation Month and Broco/Sisco Programming for our university community.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be emailed to Student Body Treasurer Nyla Pierre, Islam On Campus President Omar Ateyah, and Islam On Campus Treasurer Daanish Shauib, Interim Director of Campus Engagement Justin Donnelly, Director/Finance Manager of Student Government Gary Bryant, Accounting Specialist of Student Government Kimberly Harrell, Fiscal Assistant I Anisa Isaac, Fiscal Assistant II Chris Burdsall, Assistant Director of Campus Events & Traditions Drew Baker, and Program Coordinator of Campus Events & Traditions Jeanine Ortiz.*

[1]<http://www.islamoncampus.com/events/islam-awareness-month/>

[2]<https://nysba.org/islamophobia-surges-in-the-u-s-due-to-global-and-national-tensions/>

[3][https://www.cair.com/press\\_releases/cairflorida-islamic-community-center-of-gainesville-call-for-hate-crime-probe-of-vandalism-targeting-worship-center/](https://www.cair.com/press_releases/cairflorida-islamic-community-center-of-gainesville-call-for-hate-crime-probe-of-vandalism-targeting-worship-center/)

[4]<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIpLwsFURJQ>

[5]<https://sg.ufl.edu/about/>