

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-XXXX

TITLE: Resolution Supporting the Pakistani Student Association's Various Event Programming

AUTHOR(S): Senator Isha Khan

SPONSOR(S): Senator Raj Mia, Senator Hunter Monson, Minority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton, Pakistani Student Association President Aaron Sindhu, Pakistani Student Association Secretary Taimoor Nawaz, VISA Vice President of Internal Affairs Hana Ali,

WHEREAS, the event "Pakistani Students' Association 27th Annual Cultural Show" has been showcasing Pakistani culture and talent for the past 26 years; and,

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the education of the student body on the similarities and differences between Pakistani, Indian, and Bengali cultures and traditions as they are oftentimes conflated [1][2]; and,

WHEREAS, the event "Chaand Raat for PSA's Annual Cultural Show", with Chaand Raat translating to 'night of the moon', is a South Asian Muslim tradition, observing the eve of the holiday Eid Ul-Fitr, although most heavily practiced by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, but is also used as a functional 'getting ready' event before a large celebration, where vendors sell formal clothing, jewelry, and women apply mehndi [3]; and,

WHEREAS, Chaand Raat allows for a last 'push' to the organizers of PSA's Cultural Show and also is used to boost morale after intense preparation; and,

WHEREAS, the word "Basant" in Urdu translates to "Spring" BBQ, effectively mixing both Pakistani and American culture, more specifically Southern culture [4], and bringing the community together through food; and,

WHEREAS, the event "Mentor-Mentee Pottery Social", where mentors and mentees paired up in the Fall semester have the chance to catch up and also mingle with other PSA members that they have not had the chance to see, fostering PSA's community; and,

WHEREAS, the Florida legislature recently announced that Florida public colleges will be barred from using state and federal funds for DEI initiatives, with State Education Commissioner Manny Diaz Jr. stating, "...we will not spend taxpayers' money supporting DEI and radical indoctrination that promotes division in our society." [5]; and,

WHEREAS, a new study demonstrates how minorities do not feel welcome on campus at predominantly white institutions [6], and the University of Florida is recognized as a PWI, with 51.45% of all undergraduate students being white and 49.80% of all graduate and professional students being white [7]; and,

WHEREAS, ethnic organizations like PSA, which promote minority culture and community, become all the more important to fund due to such attacks on their eligibility for funding; 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, the Pakistani Student Association 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 [...]” [8]; and,

WHEREAS, recognizing this mission, it is the solemn duty of the University of Florida Student Senate to ensure the unwavering support of the Pakistani Students Association’s Various event programming; now,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate commemorates the Pakistani Student Association Various 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 Pakistani Students Association’s Various event programming for our university community.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be emailed to Student Body Treasurer Nyla Pierre, Pakistani Student Association President Aaron Sindhu and Pakistani Student Association Treasurer Alisha Saeed, 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]-<https://www.bbc.co.uk/creativediversity/nuance-in-bame/bangladeshi>

[2]-<https://geography.name/south-asia-pakistan-and-bangladesh/>

[3]-<https://www.utsavpedia.com/weddings-festivals/festivals/chand-raat/>

[4]-<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-evolution-of-american-barbecue-13770775/>

[5]-<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/florida-dei-rule-board-education-funding-state-federal-rcna134398>

[6]-<https://edtrust.org/press-release/students-at-pwis-dont-feel-welcome-on-campus/>

[7]-[https://cdo.ufl.edu/strategic-](https://cdo.ufl.edu/strategic-initiatives/metrics/#:~:text=The%20race%20and%20ethnicity%20of,American%20Indian%20or%20Alaska%20Native.)

[initiatives/metrics/#:~:text=The%20race%20and%20ethnicity%20of,American%20Indian%20or%20Alaska%20Native.](https://cdo.ufl.edu/strategic-initiatives/metrics/#:~:text=The%20race%20and%20ethnicity%20of,American%20Indian%20or%20Alaska%20Native.)

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

