



UNDERGRADUATE  
STUDENT  
ASSOCIATION

### **Resolution In Support of Islamic Studies at UCLA**

Presented: October 26, 2010 to the Undergraduate Student Association Council of the University of California Los Angeles

Whereas, University of California Los Angeles has been a leader in Islamic Studies, hosting one of the nation's oldest and most premier Islamic Studies Program, founded in 1957. (1)

Whereas, UCLA has the only such programs on the west coast, and at a public university. (2)

Whereas, UCLA has one of the world's largest collections of Islamic texts, numbering in excess of 350,000. (3)

Whereas, the Islamic Studies Program has contributed to the academic richness of the university with groundbreaking research, world-renowned scholarly publications, and noteworthy alumni. (4)

Whereas, the Chair, Dr. Khaled Abou El Fadl, has received 50 to 80 emails per year from interested prospective students. (5)

Whereas, the attache to L.A. mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, at a meeting with Dr. Khaled Abou El Fadl, stated the importance of Islamic Studies at UCLA to foreign dignitaries who visit Los Angeles. (5)

Whereas, other universities, like Stanford and McGill University, recognize the importance of this academic field, and are thus opening Islamic Studies programs and departments. (5)

Whereas, Islamic Studies programs throughout the United States suffer a disconnect with public opinion and US policy decisions. (6)

Whereas, less than one quarter of faculty in Islamic Studies departments nation-wide are Muslim. (6)

Whereas, UCLA Muslim students have had a history of active engagement in issues of social justice and representation, alongside the organization of various community service projects. (7)

Whereas, due to misinformation, America is experiencing a rise of Islamophobia, manifested by ignorance and fear about Islam. (8)

Whereas, there has been an increase in harassment against Muslims on campus, especially of women wearing the hijab. Within the first ten days of Fall Quarter 2010 there had been 11 reported hate incidents. (9)

Whereas, there have been no undergraduate Islamic courses offered this quarter (Fall 2010) that would provide students with an academic education about Islam. (10)

Whereas, the loss of the Islamic Studies Program deprives the UCLA community of resources to study Islam, both in regards to culture and religion, and threatens the academic well-being and success of the UCLA community on campus alongside the commitment to diverse academia. (11)

Whereas, this year marks 40 years of Ethnic Studies at UCLA, standing as a testament to UCLA's commitment to diversity: the fifth hallmark of UCLA. (12)

Whereas, Chancellor Block dedicated this year to be the Year of Ethnic Studies to commemorate and support cultural and ethnic diversity on campus. (13)

Let it be resolved, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council supports the undergraduate students as well as the over 3800 signatories of the petition in their demand for the immediate re-opening of admissions to the Islamic Studies Program, with full representation and accountability to students and the respective community.

Let it be resolved, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council supports the Student Association's demand for the immediate re-opening of admissions to the Islamic Studies Program, with full representation and accountability to students and the respective community.

Let it further be resolved that the Undergraduate Student Association Council urges UCLA to hire two new tenured faculty members, offer undergraduate courses within the Islamic Studies Program, and begin the process of departmentalization for Undergraduate Islamic Studies.

Let it be finally resolved, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council urges the UCLA to financially support and promote all the Ethnic Studies Interdepartmental Programs, Departments, and Centers at UCLA.

#### References:

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- (7) Muslim Student Association. 21 October 2010.<<http://msabruins.com/about/>>
- (8) "NYC teens charged with anti-Muslim hate crime." *USA Today*. 11 October 2012. 21 October 2010. <[http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2010-10-11-muslim-hate-nyc\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2010-10-11-muslim-hate-nyc_N.htm)>  
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- (10) UCLA Registrar. 21 October 2010. <<http://www.registrar.ucla.edu/>>
- (11)  
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- (12) Forty Years of Ethnic Studies at UCLA. 21 October 2010.  
<<http://www.ethnicstudies40th.ucla.edu/>>
- (13) "UCLA Institutional Proposal to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges." UCLA Reaccreditation by WASC. 12 May 2006. Web. Page 3. 21 October 2010. (PDF)