

R W2021.02

A Resolution Advocating that the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Encourage Its Professors and Other Employed Teaching Faculty to Allow International Students Living Abroad to take their Classes Asynchronously for the Winter 2021 Semester

A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

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Whereas, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;¹ and,

Whereas, LSA SG seeks to advocate for and provide voices for underrepresented groups on campus affected by the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic; and,

Whereas, due to academic classes being held remotely for the 2020-2021 academic year and students being advised by the University of Michigan to “stay home” for the Winter 2021 semester;² and,

Whereas, there are currently 1,384 international students enrolled in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts as of November 2020;³ and,

Whereas, an overwhelming number of said international students being forced to study remotely in their home countries due to do the COVID-19 pandemic making travel in and out of the U.S. significantly difficult;⁴ and,

Whereas, the international students at the University of Michigan come from over 130 countries, many of which are in time zones located several hours from the U.S. Eastern Standard Time Zone, such as India and China;⁵ and,

¹ The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

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[https://www.wlms.com/news/michigan/u-m-tells-students-to-stay-home-for-second-semester/#:~:text=\(WLMS\)%20%E2%80%94%20University%20of%20Michigan,easier%20to%20access%20for%20others.](https://www.wlms.com/news/michigan/u-m-tells-students-to-stay-home-for-second-semester/#:~:text=(WLMS)%20%E2%80%94%20University%20of%20Michigan,easier%20to%20access%20for%20others.)

³ https://lsa.umich.edu/content/dam/lsa-site-assets/images/images/About/College_Overview/LSA-at-a-glance.pdf

⁴ <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/academics/international-students-studying-remotely-class-happens-dawn>

⁵ <https://admissions.umich.edu/apply/international-applicants>

Whereas, an overwhelming number of international students studying remotely in their home countries must attend online classes at hours outside the conventional working/teaching day,⁶ and,

Whereas, the professors and other employed teaching faculty of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts at the University of Michigan living in the United States cannot possibly acknowledge all current events that may affect learning within each international student's respective community.

Be it therefore resolved, that the College of Literature, Science, and Arts should ensure the fair academic success of its international students during the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

Be it finally resolved, LSA SG advocates that the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts encourage its professors and other employed teaching faculty to allow international students in their respective courses who happen to be living in another country, to take their lectures asynchronously if said course is being held remotely online for the Winter 2021 semester. The international student and their respective professor or graduate student instructor should make these arrangements on their own accord based on the international student's schedule and the course requirements. This shall greatly reduce the stress placed upon international students studying remotely and who wish to succeed academically at the University of Michigan.

⁶ Ibid. #4