

R W2017.01

A Resolution to Collaborate with the South Asian Awareness Network for Their 15th Annual Conference & Future Endeavors

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”; and,

Whereas, the South Asian Awareness Network (hereafter SAAN) is a student non-profit organization that holds an annual conference that aims to be accessible to LSA students despite the large financial expenses to host such a conference; and,

Whereas, the goal of the SAAN conference is to engage participants to raise awareness about social justice issues affecting different communities that are often overlooked or not discussed, inspiring students to become active leaders in their own communities; and,

Whereas, SAAN will be hosting their fifteenth annual conference titled “Meridian: Exploring Intersections, Challenging Our Perceptions, Reaching New Heights” from January 20th to 21st; and,

Whereas, the keynote speaker for this year’s conference is Azmat Khan, who is a journalist for BuzzFeed, FRONTLINE, and Al Jazeera America; and,

Whereas, speakers from past conferences have included US State Department Program Director Almas Haider, Naya Jeevan CEO Asher Hasan, Amnesty International Director Rafia Zakaria, CNN Medical Correspondent Sanjay Gupta, Pepsi CEO Indra Nooyi, actor and White House spokesperson Kal Penn, and Daily Show correspondent Hasan Minhaj; and,

Whereas, conference attendance annually surpasses 300-400 students and alumni of the University, with over half of them being from the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; and,

Whereas, as stated in the bylaws the Diversity Affairs Committee (hereafter DAC) shall strive to, “collaborate with other student organizations in order to diversify students’ perspectives of issues pertaining to, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender identity, socioeconomic status, ability status, and sexual orientation in order to improve the overall quality of life for LSA students;” and,

Whereas, LSA SG continually sponsors this event, allocating \$1,696 dollars in Winter 2015 through *A Resolution in Support of the 13th Annual South Asian Awareness Network Conference*, and allocating \$2,000 in Winter 2016 through the Budget Allocations Committee; and,

Whereas, continuing the partnership between LSA SG and SAAN will support the mission of raising awareness about social justice and other issues for our constituents.

Be it therefore resolved, LSA SG will be a co-sponsor of the SAAN 2017 Conference and allocate \$1,625 to SAAN from the General Fund; and,

Be it further resolved, \$125 shall go towards purchasing five tickets to attend the SAAN 2017 conference, and \$1500 shall go towards expenses relating to the event such as room rentals and publication materials; and,

Be it further resolved, the LSA SG logo will be present on all publication materials of the conference and the T-shirts given to attendees of the event; and,

Be it further resolved, the Treasurer of LSA SG will immediately transfer the funds to SAAN's SOAS Account; and,

Be it further resolved, that the aforementioned expenses constitute a continuation of the partnership between LSA SG and SAAN, with LSA SG and SAAN advertising any events presented by either group, relating to social justice, diversity, and/or identity; and,

Be it finally resolved, DAC and SAAN shall maintain open communication and hold a joint post-conference event in the Winter 2017 semester.