

**SENATE RESOLUTION
S.R. W17-012**

PRIMARY AUTHOR(S)	Samir Al-Alami
SECONDARY AUTHOR(S)	
SPONSOR(S)	Oscar Loera (Vice President of External Affairs), Arturo Gomez (President), and Johnathan Li (President Pro Tempore)
TITLE	Resolution in Support of University Membership in the Institute of International Education (IIE) Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis and Support for Displaced Students, including Syrians

WHEREAS, the number of Syrian refugees now exceeds four million individuals, of which 450,000 individuals are between the ages of 18 and 22;[1]

WHEREAS, based on prewar enrollment rates, 90,000 to 110,000 Syrian students were qualified for university admission;[2]

WHEREAS, Syrians face an “academic emergency” due to a breakdown of higher education within their country, resulting from frequent attacks on university campuses, destroyed facilities, closed campuses, and dangerous roads leading to campuses;[3]

WHEREAS, the maintenance of a population of educated students and the prevention of a “lost generation” is necessary for the post-conflict development of Syria;

WHEREAS, the Institute of International Education (IIE) is addressing this emergency by creating the Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis, which includes universities and colleges worldwide who offer scholarships to assist Syrian students;[4]

WHEREAS, dozens of institutions in the United States, including the University of Southern California, Tufts University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Bryn Mawr College, and others have joined the consortium and are offering scholarships to Syrian students;[5]

WHEREAS, students and scholars of all backgrounds—including refugee scholars and students—have contributed to making America’s universities the best in the world;

WHEREAS, American universities have a long tradition of opening their doors to refugee scholars and students, dating back to World War II, when dozens of colleges and universities offered refuge to German Jewish scholars and students;

WHEREAS, given the past contribution of refugee students and scholars, American universities bear a responsibility to act as a force for internationalism and human dignity and to offer continuing support to refugee students and scholars. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Associated Students of University of California, Riverside

- (1) Encourages the University of California, Riverside to join the IIE's Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis to commit to offering increased academic seats and funding to students displaced by conflict, notably Syrian students, in the form of partial or full scholarships, by no later than the end of the 2016-17 academic year; and,
- (2) Urges the Office of Financial Aid of the University of California, Riverside to provide full tuition and fees for one (1) undergraduate student each in CNAS, CHASS, BCoE, and SoBA for up to four (4) years, and one (1) graduate student in each in the aforementioned colleges for up to six (6) years via the UCR Grant for each of the next five (5) years; and,
- (3) Encourages the university administration to release a statement detailing the funding for reserved scholarships and spaces that it will provide to educationally displaced students, including Syrians, by no later than the end of the 2016-2017 Academic Year.

[1] <http://data.unher.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>

[2] <http://www.uis.unesco.org/DataCentre/Pages/country-profile.aspx?code=SYR®ioncode=40525>

[3] http://www.iie.org/Blog/2012/November/Syria-ESF#.V_wAN2V-i-I

[4] http://www.iie.org/Programs/Syria-Scholarships#.V_wArmV-i-I

[5] http://www.iie.org/Programs/Syria-Scholarships/Join-the-Consortium#.V_wA0GV-i-I

INTRODUCED ON - February 23, 2017

COMMITTEE TABLED ON - February 23, 2017[†]

VOTE COUNT - 4-0-0

COMMITTEE TABLED ON - March 2, 2017

VOTE COUNT - 4-0-1

COMMITTEE APPROVED ON - March 9, 2017

VOTE COUNT - 4-0-1

SENATE APPROVED ON - March 15, 2017

VOTE COUNT - 9-0-0

Public Notice

[†] Tabled at the Request of the Author