



**Associated Student Government**  
*University of Arkansas*

*ASG Senate Resolution No. 5*

Author(s): Senator Mary Fuhrman, Students with Refugees Vice President Julianna Kantner, SWR Advocacy Committee Co-Director Sherjeel Naeem, Students with Refugees Membership Coordinator Josie Zakrzewski

Sponsor(s): Chair of Senate Jack Switzer

**A Resolution To Fund Scholarships For Afghan Evacuees**

Whereas, the University of Arkansas is dedicated to promoting an inclusive and diverse culture that cultivates and supports creativity, community, and progress;

Whereas, the geopolitical situation in Afghanistan deteriorated unexpectedly in August of 2021, forcing tens of thousands of Afghan citizens to flee their country; this led to the largest migration of Afghan scholars in over a decade;

Whereas, hundreds of college-aged Afghan students faced disruption to their education and career training<sup>1</sup>, and are in need of emergency assistance to continue their education here in the United States;

Whereas, the University of Arkansas can be at the forefront of relief education efforts for displaced Afghan scholars, joining other American universities committed to funding scholarships<sup>2,3</sup>;

Whereas, the University of Arkansas and Afghanistan have a history of educational partnership, drawing decades of Afghan scholars through the Fulbright Program; the establishing documents of which are housed in Mullins Library;

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<sup>1</sup> CBS News, 22 September 2021

<sup>2</sup> Best Colleges, 9 September 2021

<sup>3</sup> Forbes, 29 August 2021

Whereas, nearly three hundred graduate students, undergraduates, and faculty members of the University of Arkansas have expressed support for this initiative via petition (Appendix A & B);

Whereas, students have continued to show support for this initiative in Students with Refugees, Graduate-Professional Student Congress, and Rotaract via letter-writing campaigns, informational meetings, and vocal advocacy;

Be it therefore resolved: The Associated Student Government supports the sponsorship of twenty-five full-time, four-year undergraduate scholarships for Afghan evacuees: covering tuition and a \$15,000 cost-of-living stipend per student, beginning in Fall 2022, and;

Be it further resolved: Facilitate six months of ESL study at the Spring International Language Center (Appendix C) for each Afghan evacuee studying at the U of A, beginning in the spring semester of 2022, and;

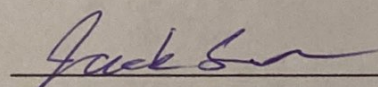
Be it further resolved: Establish a position for, or allocate one staff member to, the creation, case management, and sustainment of an educational pipeline for displaced students (refugees, resettled immigrants, etc.).

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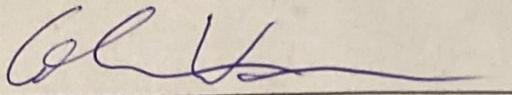
Amendments: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote Count: Aye \_\_\_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_\_\_ Abstentions \_\_\_\_\_

Legislation Status: Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Switzer, ASG Chair of the Senate

12/8/2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Coleman Warren, ASG President

12/8/2021

Date

## Appendix A

### Scholarship Petition for Evacuated Afghan Students

Honorable Chancellor Robinson,

On behalf of the former, current, and future Afghan students at the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, we are petitioning the University of Arkansas for twenty-five fully-funded scholarships for at-risk, Afghan scholars recently evacuated from Afghanistan.

In August of this year, the geopolitical situation in Afghanistan deteriorated unexpectedly forcing tens of thousands of Afghan citizens to flee their country. These horrific events led to the largest migration of scholars in over a decade, warranting an urgent response from academic institutions with means to help address this crisis. Among them are hundreds of college students in need of emergency help to continue their education here in the United States. We acknowledge an opportunity for the University of Arkansas to be at the forefront of relief education efforts by allocating a minimum of twenty-five (25) fully-funded scholarships to this group of students, commencing the academic semester of Spring 2022. This effort is not only a gesture of goodwill but will also attract a pool of talented and aspiring students to the state of Arkansas.

Afghanistan and the University of Arkansas have a long history of cooperation that started during the Cold War. Mullins Library houses the original documents signed by former Afghan Prime Minister Daud Khan launching the Fulbright Program for Afghanistan. Through this program, Afghan Fulbright scholars have regularly attended the University of Arkansas, excelled in their education as teachers and research assistants, graduated with distinction, and returned home to Afghanistan as high-achieving professionals.

Over the years, many Afghan alumni from the University of Arkansas have succeeded in establishing themselves in their respective fields. In 2014, Naheed Esar, graduated with her master's degree in Cultural Anthropology, returned home to work for the government of Afghanistan, most recently serving as Deputy Foreign Minister. Khalid Ahmadzai completed his BA in Middle Eastern Studies in 2014 followed by his master's degree at the Clinton School of Public Service in Little Rock – resulting in establishing Canopy NWA – a refugee resettlement agency here in NW Arkansas. Upon his return from Afghanistan, he stepped into the position of Director of Economic Advancement for Canopy NWA. Yet another notable alumna, Abdul Qahar Jawad completed his degree in 2012 and returned to Afghanistan as a professor at Kabul