

Senate Document SD 23-27
Amended and Approved,
4/22/2024

TO: Fort Wayne Senate
FROM: Assem Nasr and Steve Carr
DATE: February 22, 2024
SUBJECT: PFW Faculty Senate Position on Conflict in the Middle East

PFW Faculty Senate Position on Conflict in the Middle East

WHEREAS, the conflict in the Middle East has been ongoing for several months resulting in a tragic loss of countless innocent lives along with a spiraling humanitarian crisis;

WHEREAS, politically motivated violence and extremism now taking place in Israel, Gaza, and beyond deeply and directly affects members of this academic community;

WHEREAS, the Purdue University Fort Wayne community includes peoples representing many different nationalities, religions, and political beliefs;

WHEREAS, Purdue University (WL) nor has PFW have yet to issue statements,

WHEREAS, PFW's vision ("empower every person, every day, to improve our world") and [mission](#) compel us as an institute of higher education to tackle difficult conversations to enable and afford members of our community the tools to positively impact our world;

WHEREAS, the catastrophic circumstances and colossal violence present a learning opportunity by exposing students to complex global issues, thereby, detrimental to developing world knowledge, global citizenship, and empathy;

WHEREAS, the leadership skills and qualities that we strive to cultivate in our students require confronting challenging issues and finding creative solutions with tact, compassion, and respect for fellow human beings;

WHEREAS, as of the time of writing this Senate Document, there has been little to no serious informed engagement in conversations about the conflict, related context, stakeholders, and the role we individually play as citizens;

WHEREAS, individuals in our community may not have adequate resources to counter some misinformation appearing in news outlets and social media venues;

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WHEREAS, PFW as an educational institution has both the right and responsibility to share our scholarly expertise, academic talent, and multifaceted perspectives in ways that promote access to accurate information and a safe space for meaningful dialogue on difficult or controversial topics,

BE IT RESOLVED that the PFW Senate expresses its grief and support to all members of our community who may be affected by the violence taking place in the Middle East;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Fort Wayne Senate encourages anyone struggling to cope with this violence or its effects upon their family and friends to seek without shame or fear of stigma any and all mental health resources available on or off campus, including those listed on <https://www.pfw.edu/offices/wellrec/mental-health/>.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Fort Wayne Senate urges students, faculty, staff, administration, and others within our academic community to show the utmost levels of compassion, kindness, and sensitivity to our fellow community members grieving and suffering amid the count of all wounded or killed by this wave of horrific violence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the PFW Senate foster the essence of this statement by acknowledging world crises and by encouraging the university to embrace difficult conversations through increased public programming around this issue that involves our faculty and students and that models for our community the urgency of participating in informative, civil, and compassionate discussions during times of crisis.