Whereas there is a significant lack of course offerings on the Middle East at UBCV compared to other major Canadian universities; and,

Whereas the number of UBC students from the Middle East has grown faster than that of the general student population since 2000; and,

Whereas the Middle Eastern Studies Initiative comprises several student groups with members enrolled in a number of academic disciplines who are working towards increasing course content and offerings on Middle East topics, with the eventual aim of creating an interdisciplinary Middle Eastern Studies Program at UBC; and,

Whereas all students benefit from the opportunity to learn about the languages, history, politics, geography, literature and anthropology of other cultures, especially in such a significant region of the world as the Middle East; and,

Whereas there is strong demand for existing courses on Middle Eastern topics; and,

Whereas a Middle Eastern Studies Program would be complimentary to the existing Asian Studies, Latin American Studies, European Studies and African Studies Programs;

Be it resolved that the AMS endorse the Middle Eastern Studies Initiative and Proposal, and support the creation of a Middle Eastern Studies Program.

Be it further resolved that the VP Academic write a letter of support for the Middle Eastern Studies Initiative and provide assistance to this student led initiative where possible.