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RE: USC Membership in the IIE Syria Consortium & Support for Syrian Students and Scholars

Whereas, the Syrian Civil War is in its fifth year, and there is no indication that a peaceful resolution to the conflict is forthcoming,¹

Whereas, hundreds of thousands of Syrians have died and millions have fled the country since the beginning of the conflict,²

Whereas, hundreds of thousands of Syrian scholars and students are among those displaced,³

Whereas, these scholars and students require emergency assistance and refuge,

Whereas, it is the moral obligation of all capable parties and institutions to provide this assistance,

Whereas, dozens of American colleges and universities— including Bard College, Boston University, Bryn Mawr College, Colorado State University, De Paul University, Emory University, Illinois Institute of Technology, Illinois State University, Hanover College, Maryville University, Monmouth College, Montclair State University, Notre Dame School of Law, Tufts University, University of

¹ BBC News (October 9, 2015). "Syria: The Story of the Conflict." Retrieved October 25, 2015, at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868>.

² United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (July 9, 2015). "Total Number of Syrian Refugees Exceeds Four Million for First Time." Retrieved October 26, 2015 at <http://www.unhcr.org/559d67d46.html>.

³ Institute for International Education (May 16, 2014). "IIE and Partners Lead Higher Education Response to Syria Crisis." Retrieved October 25, 2015 at <http://www.iie.org/Who-We-Are/News-and-Events/Press-Center/Press-Releases/2014/2014-05-16-IIE-Syria-Consortium-for-Higher-Education-in-Crisis>.

California- Davis, University of Colorado- Colorado Springs, and others—have taken up this charge by joining the Institute of International Education’s Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis and by thereby committing to offer scholarships and spaces to Syrian students and scholars fleeing for their lives,⁴

Whereas, the University of Southern California’s core values compel it to act in solidarity with Syrian students and scholars, in keeping with its commitment to develop “human beings and society as a whole through cultivation of the human mind and spirit,”⁵

Let it be resolved, that the University of Southern California will join the IIE’s Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis and will commit to offer specific spaces and funding to Syrian refugee students and scholars, by no later than the end of the 2015-2016 Academic Year,

Be it further resolved, that the University of Southern California Office of the Provost will issue a public statement detailing the specific spaces and financial assistance that it will provide to Syrian refugee students and scholars, by no later than the end of the 2015-2016 Academic Year.

⁴ Institute for International Education (October, 2015). “Syria Consortium Members.” Retrieved October 25, 2015 at <http://www.iie.org/Programs/Syria-Scholarships/Join-the-Consortium>.

⁵ University of Southern California. “University of Southern California Mission Statement.” Retrieved September 22, 2015. <https://about.usc.edu/policies/>.