

Bill # 71-18

**The Graduate and Professional Student Association
(GPSA)
The Pennsylvania State University**



of the 71st Assembly
December 10th, 2021

Be it decided by the Assembly of Elected Delegates,

**Co-sponsorship for Iranian Student Association
Co-funding for Yalda Night**
(Decided: [Y / N / A])

1 **Nature of the Situation:**

2
3 The Iranian Student Association (ISA) is a non-religious and non-political organization that aims
4 to provide an interactive environment for students of Iranian heritage at Penn State, and to offer
5 social and cultural programs intended to familiarize the University community with Iranian
6 traditions. ISA consists of more than 20 active members, most of whom are graduate students.

7 One of the events that ISA organizes is Shab-e-Yalda (Yalda Night), also known as Shab-e-
8 Chelleh, which is one of the most ancient Persian festivals annually celebrated by Iranians all
9 around the world. Yalda is a winter solstice celebration; it is the last night of autumn and the
10 longest night of the year. Yalda means birth and it refers to the birth of Mitra; the mythological
11 goddess of light. Since days get longer and nights to get shorter in winter, Iranians celebrate the
12 last night of autumn as the renewal of the sun and the victory of light over darkness. On Shab-e-
13 Yalda, people gather in groups of friends or relatives usually at the home of grandparents or the
14 elderly to pass the longest night of the year happily by eating nuts and fruits, read Hafiz poems,
15 make good wishes, and spend time together to give a warm welcome to winter and a felicitous
16 farewell to autumn. Shab-e-Yalda and its traditions are also celebrated in countries such as
17 Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

18 This year, Yalda Night will be held on December 17th, 2021 at the Calvary Church. ISA is
19 requesting the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) to co-sponsor \$1900.00
20 for the event. The total budget for the event is \$3450.99. GPSA is being requested to fund the
21 costs for the venue, music, and fruits and nuts.

22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33

Recommended Course of Action:

By approving this legislation, the GPSA agrees to fund and co-sponsor the following items for the Yalda Night event being organized by the Iranian Student Association.

Rental for venue: \$300.00

Payment for music performer (Shayan Jahanpanah): \$1250.00

Fruit: \$200.00

Nuts: \$150.00

Total: \$1900.00

Respectfully submitted,

Sandeep Krishnakumar
Speaker of the Assembly
Delegate, College of Engineering