



Executive Action Sheet for Senate Legislation

- Senate Bill 331- **OTO**
 Resolution 331-

I, Sydney Thayer, President of the Student Assembly of William & Mary do hereby:

- Approve
 Veto

The Student Assembly Senate Legislation: **The Funding Iftar Act III**

Sydney Thayer

President, 331st Student Assembly (23-24)

DATE: **2/28/24**

331st Student Assembly
Senate Bill 331-040

A Bill

To ensure that students will be provided with appropriate dietary options during Ramadan and to accommodate the expanding Muslim community at William & Mary

The Funding Iftar Act III

An Act of the 331th Student Assembly of William & Mary,

Sponsored by Senator Laayba Tanoli ('26), Senator Hazel Vineet ('25), and Senator Hashir Aqeel ('25)

Supported by Secretary of Diversity Initiatives Oscar Lazo ('25), MSA Co-President Sumayyah Yasin ('25), MSA Vice President Ali Firozvi ('25), SASA President Ranjani Krishnan ('25), Class President Zoe Wang ('26), Undersecretary of Mental Health within Diverse Communities Faiza Isa ('24)

WHEREAS, Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, and for Muslims all around the world, it is a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community;

WHEREAS, During Ramadan, fasting from dawn to sunset is obligatory for all adult Muslims who are not ill, traveling, breastfeeding, or menstruating;

WHEREAS, Ramadan is the foremost opportunity annually for bonding within the larger-Islamic community on campus;

WHEREAS, Student Assembly is committed to the expression of diverse cultures and religions here on campus;

WHEREAS, The nightly feast that breaks the fast is called Iftar;

WHEREAS, Iftar times for Ramadan in 2024 will consistently be around 7:30 p.m.;

WHEREAS, Students on campus have reported a shortage of food options following 8 p.m. in the Sadler and Commons dining halls;

WHEREAS, The Muslim student population on campus has increased significantly this academic year;

WHEREAS, Dining Services and CSD (Center for Student Diversity) provide to-go options for Suhoor if students need more food until 8:00 pm;

WHEREAS, Despite the options that exist through Dining Services many are not explicitly Halal/the majority of the Muslim students find them inadequate;

WHEREAS, Dining Services has determined that all students, including upperclassmen without a meal plan or those with a commuter meal plan, are required to swipe in, thereby presenting a challenge for the majority of Muslim students observing their fast as it restricts their access to Dining Halls;

WHEREAS; The breaking of the fast is the cultural event not the food;

WHEREAS, Various academic institutions have taken proactive steps to support their students during the month of Ramadan by either funding Iftars or directing fasting students to well-funded Mosques nearby;

- The University of Virginia
 - <https://studentaffairs.virginia.edu/subsite/multicultural/resources-muslim-students>
- Columbia University
 - <https://religiouslife.columbia.edu/news/ramadan-2021-accommodations>
- Stony Brook University
 - <https://news.stonybrook.edu/homespotlight/celebrating-cultural-diversity-and-supporting-students-during-ramadan/>
- Emory University
 - <https://religiouslife.emory.edu/programs/holidays/ramadan.html>

WHEREAS, Williamsburg does not have a Mosque for students to break their fast in as the academic institutions above have;

WHEREAS, Despite multiple meetings with the head staff, cross-contamination has still been reported by several Muslim students and others with dietary restrictions;

WHEREAS, The 12 meals being funded are open to the entirety of the campus community and are an opportunity for non-Muslim students to interact with and learn about the traditions of their Muslim peers;

WHEREAS, *The Muslim Student Association* has reached out to various departments at The College of William and Mary allowing for external funding for various Ramadan dates
; SA x MSA Ramadan Calendar 2024

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Student Assembly of William & Mary:

1. Allocates \$7,047 from the Student Assembly Reserves to pay for
 - a. 12 Iftar meals for 100 people at a cost of \$5.00 per person (\$6,000)
 - b. Cultural drinks/water/milk costs, dates, utensils, plates, and napkins (\$1,047)
 - i. 2 Rooh Afza Traditional Drink (\$38.80)
 - ii. 15 boxes of Dates (\$135.00)
 - iii. 24 Water Jug Cost (\$117.00)
 - iv. 16 Mango Nectar Jug Cost (\$289.00)
 - v. 144 Goya Tamarind Nectar Bottles (\$117)
 - vi. Plates
 - vii. Cups
 - viii. Utensils
 - ix. Napkins
2. Charges the *Department of Diversity Initiatives* in the 331th session to investigate the various reports of cross-contamination with Halal meat products.
3. Stipulates that all unused funds will return to the Student Assembly Reserves.
4. Charges the *Department of Outreach*, to collaborate with MSA in creating and distributing promotional materials.
5. Encourages members of Student Assembly to sign up and volunteer to set up Student Assembly-funded Iftar meals via this Google document
[☰ Volunteer Sheet Ramadan Calender 2024](#) .
6. Charges Class Presidents to include information regarding the tabling event and flier in their class email.