Report of Community Concerns among Muslim Students, Faculty and Staff at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG)

Respectfully submitted:

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Executive Summary

This report summarizes the data collected from the implementation of a survey among Muslim students, faculty and staff at UNCG. It also includes a summary of the discussion at a community meeting, which was held to give voice and meaning to the data collected. When reading this report, it is important to note that we did not change any data submitted by people completing the survey. Both the numeric ratings of items, and the text comments submitted, reflect the community members completing the survey. Neither the authors of this report, the UNCG Muslim Student Association, or others on campus, agree with all of the comments as stated. It is important to include comments from those surveyed, even though they might be disagreeable (maybe even especially when they are).

Next steps in the process. It is important that the initial survey summary and the initial community meeting are not the final activities. The data summarized here call for the need for more dialogue, more understanding, increased emphasis on our shared work to promote a safe and engaging climate for study and growth in a University context. There are initial questions to guide discussion on pages 3 and 4 of this report. Please use them as you reflect upon, and discuss the findings presented here. It will be important to prioritize things to change and improve, in order to improve UNCG for everyone. This is a public university, with real investment in promoting knowledge, understanding, collaboration and trust, in order to serve the people within this community. We hope that these values, and additional work together will result in a better climate for study and personal development at UNCG.
Report of Community Concerns among Muslim Students, Faculty and Staff at UNCG

The Concerns Report Method is an approach to identifying the concerns of a community from the perspective of the community members themselves. The process begins with a survey developed by the community members, followed by community meetings to discuss the findings and develop approaches to successfully address the issues identified. The community members themselves then work with others to facilitate new and modified programs, policies, and practices that will address the issues. More information describing the methodology and philosophy behind the Community Concerns Report Methodology can be found on the Community Tool Box at http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/assessment/assessing-community-needs-and-resources/conduct-concerns-surveys/main.

It is important to note that the strengths and problems noted below are relative strengths and problems. Overall, there was a very low satisfaction with all 33 items of the survey completed. There were 116 completed surveys. The Survey was developed in partnership with the UNCG Muslim Student Association executive board, and 6 professors from UNCG. Top strengths are those items high in importance, and higher in satisfaction. Top problems are those items rated high in importance, and low in satisfaction. Ratings of importance and satisfaction for each of these items can be found on page 3 of this report.

Top Strengths
- You can practice your faith.
- You are pleased with your experience at UNCG.
- You can accomplish the goals of your education in the USA.
- Students, faculty and staff improve relationships with others of different ethnic and faith backgrounds.
- I (as a Muslim of UNCG) am able to attend different activities.

Top Problems
- You have prayer places/rugs, ablution stations, and water in restrooms.
- I (as a Muslim of UNCG) feel safe.
- I (as a Muslim of UNCG) am safe.
- You do not experience verbal or physical insults, or abuse.
- You do not have to be concerned about your physical appearance.
- Your belief/religion/spirituality is seen in a positive light/perspective by others.
- You are able to cope with difficult situations and pay attention to your academic studies.
- You feel safe to call the police/security when faced with some disturbance (e.g., insult, threats).
- UNCG community members prevent misconceptions or stereotypes about Islam.
- You have the support needed to handle sad news.

Questions for discussion:
- What do these items mean? What do you think people meant by their selections?
- How do we build on the strengths?
- What is needed to address the problems? What policies, programs or practices will resolve or address these issues?
Are there any items not on these lists that should be considered? What other strengths are present? What other problems?

Will addressing these issues resolve issues experienced by others?

Complete list of items in the Concerns Report Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Relative Importance</th>
<th>Relative Satisfaction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. You can practice your faith.</td>
<td>91.38</td>
<td>48.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Halal food is available on campus.</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>31.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Appropriate times are available for dining on campus during Ramadan.</td>
<td>72.57</td>
<td>33.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. You have prayer places/rugs, ablution stations, and water in restrooms.</td>
<td>94.52</td>
<td>20.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. You have access to a Muslim chaplain.</td>
<td>83.78</td>
<td>15.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. UNCG community members prevent misconceptions or stereotypes about Islam.</td>
<td>86.40</td>
<td>48.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. You are involved with the Muslim Student Association (MSA).</td>
<td>71.57</td>
<td>51.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. You have time on campus and access to all of the facilities (e.g., recreation, social and academic).</td>
<td>74.30</td>
<td>52.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Your professors understand and respect time for prayers and make adjustments for classes.</td>
<td>79.25</td>
<td>48.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Students, faculty and staff improve relationships with others of different ethnic and faith backgrounds.</td>
<td>81.88</td>
<td>57.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. I (as a Muslim of UNCG) get support from other community organizations and the university.</td>
<td>78.65</td>
<td>52.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. You have good connections with Muslim community on the campus.</td>
<td>75.69</td>
<td>49.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. I (as a Muslim of UNCG) am able to attend different activities.</td>
<td>81.88</td>
<td>51.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. I (as a Muslim of UNCG) feel safe.</td>
<td>92.54</td>
<td>39.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. I (as a Muslim of UNCG) am safe.</td>
<td>93.97</td>
<td>40.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. You can spend time with people similar to yourself, in terms of ethnic/religious/cultural background.</td>
<td>75.70</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Counseling could be helpful for yourself or your community to address issues.</td>
<td>64.72</td>
<td>43.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. You are able to improve your relationships with other Americans.</td>
<td>80.45</td>
<td>39.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. You consider MSA as an important resource for support.</td>
<td>77.21</td>
<td>47.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. You are able to direct your friends who ask about Islam to resources on campus.</td>
<td>82.50</td>
<td>32.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. You are able to cope with difficult situations and pay attention to your academic studies.</td>
<td>87.39</td>
<td>44.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. You feel safe to call the police/security when faced with some disturbance (e.g., insult, threats).</td>
<td>86.95</td>
<td>35.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Counselor(s) or psychologist(s) work with individuals or your community to address difficulties and increase the quality of life.</td>
<td>64.78</td>
<td>39.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. You do not experience social difficulties in the USA during your education.</td>
<td>79.69</td>
<td>42.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. You can accomplish the goals of your education in the USA.</td>
<td>88.62</td>
<td>56.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. You do not experience verbal or physical insults, or abuse.</td>
<td>92.12</td>
<td>45.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. You have access to counseling services.</td>
<td>66.67</td>
<td>45.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. You have the support needed to handle sad news.</td>
<td>84.63</td>
<td>44.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. You are able to use recreation facilities (gym, swimming pool, etc.).</td>
<td>66.59</td>
<td>42.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. You are pleased with your experience at UNCG.</td>
<td>87.72</td>
<td>58.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. You do not have to be concerned about your physical appearance.</td>
<td>89.06</td>
<td>36.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Your belief/religion/spirituality is seen in a positive light/perspective by others.</td>
<td>88.74</td>
<td>33.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. You feel safe using counseling services that are available.</td>
<td>70.37</td>
<td>45.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Summary of Additional Questions Included in the Survey

### Sex:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Education:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interlink</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (e.g., graduate student, faculty, staff)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduated or Alumni</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### I identify as a Muslim whether I try to practice Islam as my religion or not.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### I try to practice my faith...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With some regularity</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When it is convenient</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occasionally</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### I plan to attend the community meeting and dinner on March 27 at 5:30pm, in 160 Bryan to discuss the results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary of Comments Contributed by People Surveyed

Are there other concerns that are not presented in this survey? (Please respond here especially if you cannot attend the dinner.)

- "More activities toward graduate students by MSA not just undergraduate, and support for their families, no music-dancing-noise in activities of MSA, especially more activities and involvement from graduate students- I am from Saudi Arabia and have attended some activities but no grad students and there was music I am not sure how music will help us and others."
- MSA can make more activities just for women; I do not feel comfortable hanging out with men at activities.
- I believe water in restrooms is very important we all know that.
- What is counseling and activities on campus should provide halal food. CAB activities or other activities at EUC should provide halal food. When we ask if there is pork or alcohol they say "we do not know." it will be good to educate the university staff since they say "what is halal, any you cannot eat pork and drink alcohol."
- Water in restrooms is important; prayer places are not important for me at all but for my friends. I am from Iran and I do not practice but water in restrooms is a part of my culture and I want to see that. It is stupid to carry small bottles to get clean.
- Media is stupid, we need to focus on that and also how Americans and other students see us on campus, I and my family not feel safe stay on campus and walk after the chapel hill event. I hope you will be able to change something.
- I am not student or staff at the school but have two kids and am worried about them. Sometimes my wife and my other son also comes. I visit them sometimes and we study read something at the library and there is no any place to pray. It is difficult even to use restrooms because there is no water and sometimes we go to mosque just for that and that takes more than 50-60 minutes go,come back,start read something. It will be really a great hayr [good deed] if we can get some thing.
- Halal food is important when we attend activities by university and I think MSA should be more organized. I also want to pass to MSA that they need to be more careful with their activities. Do they lost any family members in Palestine and get occupied by terrorists and being killed constantly... how they can make an activity with Hillel when they use the picture of a soldier killed Palestinians, probably they have never thought about the details of the event. My family is from Palestine and I am in Europe for this semester and I got very sad to see the student organizations used such pictures and using MSA name. I am sad for that- Zionists who kill people cannot bring peace and they bring just war and oppression to our (Muslims, Christians, Jews, nonbelievers). I will be happy if you pass this to MSA and they know who I am. Thanks and hope we will get some good.
- I do not practice but water in restrooms is very important to me; it’s my culture and belief. I will be happy see university is doing that. Also I have many friends who do not practice but facing this big issue, not having water in restrooms.
- I want to see more graduate students involved in MSA. I attended a few times and I was almost the only grad student. I believe there is a lot to learn from each other. I also want to see MSA doing weekly simple meetings and provide time to pray together. One of the most important thing is providing water in restrooms and having a designated place so we can pray together.
- I think that another thing that we need to address is the problem within our community. I feel that some girls with/without hijab treat each other differently and I don’t see why people cannot lay these differences aside and find peace with each other.
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- My friend was driving about 20 and limit was 35 in Greensboro and police stopped him and gave him a ticket, how i can trust them. He went to court and got a lawyer and spent 250$.that is discrimination. Another friend was stopped by police and were searched and then told/showed that everybody wears shirts and shorts why he wears long abaye/arab clothes, or people just ask why we support terrorist, sometimes I want to scream and tell them they are terrorist. They are terrorist support all terrorist in our countries.

- During the past years Ramadan was not an issue but it is gonna be a problem when it comes during the semester.

- Justice for middle east; it is our home and nobody cares about millions of people

- I realized that my Muslim friends do not want to meet together after the event in Paris and especially after Chapel Hill. We talked with brother Ahmet how students go off campus for prayer and how it is important to help to make them stays on campus. We also talked how graduate students can be more involved with MSA so they can be more effective.

- I do not eat on campus but halal food is important for department or university activities. When I ask if the pizza at university activities (like CAB) is halal or if there is pork/alcohol etc. in it they say what that is. The staff do not know anything about that and it is difficult. I know some of my friends are eating on campus and they just can eat limited things. Also professors should be more careful when they bring something; for example, our professors sometimes bring some cookies or candy and there is pork in, so my Jewish friend other two Muslim in the class cannot eat it. It is not difficult to pay attention to some general rules for that like K, U, D, and Halal points.

- The most important points however for me and most of Muslims I think safety and water in restrooms. If you can deal with that that will be very helpful.

- Another point is time for prayer, we have statistic class and it takes three hours in the evenings. Therefore, time for two prayers starts and ends (it is a little detail so I cannot explain well here) within these two hours. It will be helpful if professors pay attention to giving a break at an appropriate time and predetermined so we can pray during the break. As two Muslim students we explained to our prof. about our situation and they said "you can leave class when you want to pray" okay we can leave but we did not want to miss class every week for 10 minutes and leaving class every week and coming back and distracting class. It would have not been difficult to give the break at the end of 80-90minutes instead of waiting for 2 hours or giving the same break just after 60 minutes and then no break for two hours. I do not mean they have bad intention but they really need to understand us too. In one class we were four Muslims, so should four students leave class every week four 10 minutes??? I do not think it is a good idea for students and rest of the class.

- Swimming pool and gym should have some hours that just male attend; I cannot swim with females that is not acceptable in my religion.

- I do not eat food on campus but halal food is necessary for my friends who eat on campus and live on campus.

- Having a person or a group that can help the young ladies to walk to their car or destination, when they have classes at night or evening times.

- I do not practice prescribed prayers but water in restrooms is very important in terms of my faith and hygiene.

- I was student at interlink last year and am now master student at another school but still sometimes I visit my friends. I can remember how I wanted to go swimming but had no friends and my Muslim friends will not come because of men and women mixed. Therefore, most of the items are important to my friends and not to me but they affected and do affect still the rest, so it is not just individual. My friends at interlink sent me the link and wanted
me to fill in and I am really happy for that some one is putting time in. I hope you/we will get some good things because these things are not extreme and expensive to do.

- I do not safe here and in my country and I and other Muslim friends do not want to be together because they say it is not good. I feel my American friends also feel not safe with us because I am Muslim and they think we will do something to them because televisions and newspapers tell lies always and they believe them.
- I will stay much more on campus and especially library to study if we have water in restrooms and a place to pray. I struggle for my prayers when I stay on campus during classes and after classes. If we as Muslims just get water in restrooms I will stand and applaud us- really. I thank a lot to MSA and brother Ahmet and professors (I heard that many professors put effort into it) for their great effort. Also thanks a lot for reminding us in the halaqa [meeting] today otherwise I would have missed it.
- I think everything is included in the survey
- I agree with brother Ahmad that more graduate students should be involved in MSA to make it more effective and professional.
- I want more activities separate for brothers and sisters. I do not want to go to MSA activities because of male and female are mixed and sometimes the situation get the same as at a bar.
- I would like to see some activities just for brothers. I would like to see MSA organizing prayers time so that we can pray together. I rarely see brothers pray together at MSA activities. For example, last semester we went to the first event and the time for prayers passed and nobody stopped the activity and many people missed it. Then five brothers left and never came back and even they discussed about whether another time they would attend the activities and I have not see these brothers then at MSA activities. They even brought at the mosque and the imam told them if they cannot change it they had better not to talk about MSA in a negative way and stay away from such mingling and negative talking. I hope MSA will receive this message and will pay attention. Also this is not just for
brothers- I know two of these brother’s wife or sisters cover even their faces so it will be good for sisters if they have event that just women can see each other not males. None of those sisters attend MSA activities.

- University can easily provide watering cans in the restrooms and that is really needed.
- Another concern I could think of is not being aware of the resources available to you.
- More organized activities by MSA and Muslim community to educate Muslims and people who want to hear about Islam.
- UNCG, departments, student organizations should pay more attention to activities open to everybody when they order food. In most activities I cannot eat anything because they include pork, alcohol, and so forth that is not permissible in Islam. In many activities, they offer a lot cookies, pizza, etc. but my Muslim friends and I cannot eat because we do not know what they include as ingredients and when we ask they say they do not know most of the times. Two years ago I came to UNCG for interview and they were offering lunch but I could not eat because there was meat in most of the food and there was almost nothing halal except for some fruits I could eat and did not have enough time to explore (I was new to campus for the day) and find something eat and I completed rest of my interview in such a hungry mood really. Or sometimes faculty and my classmates bring food to events and class and they do not know that I have to pay attention to alcohol, pork, and their products and I explain to some of them but do not want to tell all of them and disturb them.
- Another important than food is water in restrooms, as a women I really do not know how to give a voice to that.
- We need more Muslim graduate students to be accepted in the UNCG.
- It’s very important for me to use the pool and take some gym classes and as a Muslim girl it kinda hard to do that when it’s coed.

- Water in restrooms and halal food during activities
- Water in restrooms
- Education about Islam to both Muslims and not Muslims and more sensitivity to Muslims at MSA activities
- We are going to attend the dinner with our friends but we do not want anybody take photos and then post on Facebook. MSA is doing that a lot, we do not think that is good.

Are there other supports that you wish were available on the UNCG campus that are not presented in this survey? (Please respond here especially if you cannot attend the dinner.)

- Aside from halal food, It would be great if Zabiha halal was also an option
- support for families/wife/kids at MSA activities
- I am not sure about the dinner- may attend and I am concerned about the safety. I think it is good to let the security know. People are crazy.
- I think more studies like that necessary and I hope you will get something done though I am hopeless.
- i am not sure about dinner.
- I want to see beautiful things (education etc.) in my country. What is Muslim? I cannot go with the Muslim category that Afghan people have or Saudi Arabians, but I am Muslim. You should ask another question for that.
- Connection with Muslim community and other communities should be increased, my kids feel alone sometimes and I do not want them to drink and use drugs but they feel alone and get bored. Muslims should have more activity. I answered the question for my family and kids. Another thing is my daughters like swimming but they cannot go to gym because it is
male and female together, it is their right to go so university should provide some time only for men and women so they can go.

- Finding house and roommates is a big problem because we do not enter house with shoes and not drink alcohol and not have girlfriends and not eat pork so it is difficult and problem to live with other people. When we first came it was very difficult. MSA or Muslims or student at interlink can do something. Also can you help us with improving our English with my friends at interlink we talked about if Muslims who can speak English good can record some Quran. Then we can listen them as mp3, we talked with you brother ahmad and you said we can do it. We listen the radio but it is not very good you know we talked about how radio call us as terrorist all time. It is going to be good insaallah if MSA can record some Quran or some other things and help us for English and for housing.
- activities to improve English; recording some Quran chapters we talked with friends if MSA can do that so we can listen to connect with our religion and improve our English
- Pay attention to safety for the dinner, and thanks much.
- Support for families especially wives.
- "More activities that fits with our religion. Most of the activities for fun do not go well with Islam and I and most of my friends do not attend because we do not want to engage in such activities that could be sin for us.
- I understand that we have Jumma [Friday congregation] Prayers but it would be better if we can find someone among our members or the community member to have a Khutba [lecture on Friday congregation] on Jumma.
- I wish to have a halal place in UNCG
- Orientation to Muslims when they first come because i came and on my first day one American was asking why we support terrors and want to talk about that. We are not terrorist and one guy shouted at park at Wal-Mart "we do not want terrorists go home" they are terrorist and they are in our countries and killing us and all other people. We are not terrorists. So orientation will be good.
- We need more professional panels about Islam so people will not think we are terrorist and they will support us when terrorists attack us and kill us and they will understand that Islam is good and nothing bad.
- Frankly, the more I get to know brother Ahmet the more I want to know more about counseling though it is difficult in Arab culture and in general in Muslim college to see a counselor. I have gained a lot regarding counseling by seeing brother Ahmad and his effort and strategy and explanations of situations. I really believe now counseling is something good and beneficial and all Muslims (with brother Ahmad’s words) taking in to consideration that all these wars, traumas, constant subconscious messages...I see him paying attention to whole community and paying attention to how we can work more effectively instead of just wasting time. He is proud of being a counselor and almost all times bring it to our conversations and I like how he explains and make us think about how to be more effective for (with his words) oneself, our family, Muslims, and all people. I just want to say thanks a lot for this study and I really liked it and am excited to see some good results (with his words again) we already get good results by talking about them, getting support for dinners and so on. I get to know brother Ahmad at the vigil and in this short time I want to say you affected me and many friends and I believe this research will lead more flowers.
- None. Very nice community of people. Feel at home.
- I want the dinner also be separate for men and women and will be happy to hear by email.
- We need more clean and quite place for practicing our religion inside the UNCG campus.
- Water in restrooms and halal food during activities
- Water in restrooms and halal food during activities or at school my department
Community Concerns Report Summary
6 April 2015

- Water in restrooms and halal food during activities; pork is in everything
- More education about Islam because many American Muslims do not know about the basic rules; for example, there are a few brothers who go to the restroom and then do not use water and then come and pray. That is not acceptable and MSA should educate and give some Khutba about that.
- I do not eat food on campus but I know it is important for brothers who lives on campus
- More education and more sensitivity for sisters and brothers separate events; we told MSA but it sounds like they do not care or maybe they care. More sensitivity so we can attend activities.

Summary of Notes from Community Meeting on 27 March 2015

A community meeting was held at 530pm. Attendees included representatives from the UNCG Muslim Student Association, students at UNCG, faculty and staff at UNCG, and other community members. Approximately 55 people attended the dinner, 40-45 stayed for the discussion, and 30 stayed until the last moment. Many Muslim were able to stay and pray since the watering cans and prayer place were provided. Otherwise, many had to leave and many students voiced appreciation for the evening. Two professors (religious and history department) came before dinner and just wanted to get the results since they did not have time and thanked a lot.

- Students thanked the organizers for providing watering cans in the restrooms and places for prayers so that they did not have to go home or another place to pray.
- One student said it was surprising for her to see how it came out that having a chaplain is important on campus since she has never thought about it. However, she said it makes sense because as Muslim Student Association (MSA) executive board they cannot help and reach everybody in difficult situations like after three students were killed in Chapel Hill. She said it is good to hear what other Muslims on campus think and need.
- A member of MSA board said they got a lot through this process and also how to pay attention to all community and make more effort to hear them all and give a voice to their needs. They said they see how cultural factors are also important in their experiences at UNCG.
- Three participants explained the importance of having watering cans in the restrooms and having a specific place for prayers. They stressed, a few times, that they have to leave campus and miss their classes because there is no water in the restrooms and a place to pray.
- Another student told the students, who brought up the issue of watering cans in the restrooms, how to use meditation room and how some students do not know the meditation room. However, the three students brought how Muslims pray five times a day and how it is strongly recommended to pray in congregation, and how they cannot pray together (reciting Qur’an, prostrating, bowing, etc.) in the meditation room because they do not want to disturb the others and how they do not feel good to do this when someone else is quietly meditating.
- Another female student expressed how it is uncomfortable for her when someone else is sleeping/meditating in the next cubic and she is practicing her prayer that is consisted of some physical movements and reciting some chapters from Qur’an. She also mentioned how many other student organizations and especially religious organizations have a specific place but Muslims do not have such a place and struggle each time to find a place. She also mentioned that there are many Muslims on campus and it is time for the university to acknowledge Muslims and provide a place and other necessary things (watering cans, rugs) so that they can easily know where to pray and not struggle constantly for such issues.
Another student said how he has to leave campus to go to restroom and how he and his friends do not want to stay on campus because they do not feel comfortable using restrooms when there is no water in the restrooms. He said how we can stay on campus when we have to go home to use restrooms and pray. He said when he misses his prayers he cannot focus on his studies.

Another student said in order to increase academic achievement, we need to make sure Muslims stay on campus and use resources and for that the first need is providing watering cans and prayer place and wudu/ablution stations for men and women.

Two students said they try to perform ablution in the restroom because they do not want to get attention and make other people angry at them. They said they carry water in small bottles to the restroom and try to take ablution (wash their face, arms, feet), and yet how that is difficult for them. They said it is really need to have an ablution station so that people will not look at them so strange and they will not feel uncomfortable. One of them said it is an issue and she get used to live with it and that she understood how it is difficult for other students come from abroad where they have ablution station, watering cans, and clean place to pray.

One student said as Muslim community and as MSA they want to improve their relationship with other groups and non-Muslims as well but it is needed to first address the most important needs of the Muslim community so that they will be more available to stay on campus and get in touch with other groups and people.

Another student said, he cannot know where the praying place is and whether there is Khutba (Friday prayer/congregation) if he is not in touch with the MSA. And he said he and some other students do not want to follow and engage with the MSA through emails, Facebook, etc. Therefore, he said it is necessary to know that there is a place to pray and there is congregation on Fridays. He said it is not good to think every Friday and try to figure out whether there will and where it will be.

One student, MSA board member, said the survey has provided them great amount of information and they will use it to increase the quality of the campus both for Muslims and non-Muslims by following future studies and especially solutions. He said it was great to be part of improving the survey and conducting it as MSA.

One non-Muslim participant recommended that MSA contact administrators about the new recreation building to get a place for prayer and some other important things like watering cans. She said she knows there are plenty of places in this new building and it is necessary to address needs of Muslims on campus.

Another female student said how some people feel not safe with headscarf and change their style by wearing some hats, and so on. She said I also have tried many other different hats and ways but I felt that I was getting away from my identity and I do not think it is good. She said my headscarf is part of my identity and I do not want to get away from who I am. However, she said, we need to increase awareness of who we are and that we are not bad and dangerous people when we pray and practice our belief. Another student said, I need to pray when I am with my non-Muslim friends, and I have to make it sure that I have explained that I will pray. They said I tell them “Hey, I am going to pray here if that is okay,” she said I feel I need to explain because I feel like they may get freak out because they do not know anything. Another participant, after the event, said most of the people think our prescribed prayers have to be in a totally quiet place like a meditation room and so his friends would leave or totally stop talking when he would pray at the beginning of their friendship. He said that we should increase awareness so that Muslims and non-Muslims do not feel uncomfortable with each other when a Muslim friend wants to pray at a corner or go to pray. He also said awareness and good relationship comes best if Muslims can practice
their belief on campus rather than having so many activities to increase awareness. He said, “if they have a place to be able to pray in congregation and be able to have water in the restrooms, that will be the starting point for all other solutions.” He also wanted to see more graduate students engaged in MSA.

- Another participant said he was student at UNCG in 2001 and at that time he and his friends had these all issues (water in restroom, prayer place, rugs). He said they were leaving campus to pray and it was difficult for them since it was taking time and money to go to mosque or home. He said it is necessary to acknowledge and address these issues. He said he is happy to see the survey and coming together and talking about these.

- Another participant said how she talked to the chair of her department about watering can in restroom on the second day she started her education at UNCG, and how the chair addressed these issues the following day. She also said she knows that not everybody feel empowered to stand and talk for their issues. She agreed that watering cans and prayer places are needed and without them it is impossible to make UNCG home for Muslims. She said it is important for Muslims to stay on campus and feel at home so that they get engaged more with all other activities. She said without providing these, it is not going to be effective to want students to do more activities and be united with the rest of the campus.

- Two MSA board members said they want more people involved with MSA and yet they cannot afford everything and need more personal and professional help.

- Another non-Muslim participant suggested (based on how Muslim community wants to improve relationship with others) Muslims to attend activities of other religious organizations on campus, and she provided more information about their activities and how different organizations have regular dinner at the Campus Ministry building on a regular base during the weekdays. They said that will be important for all sides to improve relationship.

- Another non-Muslim participant recommended that we improve personal relationships with each other and being friend and accompanying each other from time to time.

- Another non-Muslim participant suggested Muslim community get in touch with Graduate Student Association to give a voice to their needs and to improve relationship with others.

- An MSA board member said they constantly putting effort to improve the relationship with other student organizations, yet this should be more organized and as MSA they cannot be enough for everything. He said UNCG should put more effort to hear their needs and address them in practical ways rather than waiting for months and years.

- Another participant said they know that many universities provide places for Muslims so that students feel better and stay more on campus and improve their relationship with the rest of the campus.

- Another participant thanked for the study and how many supporters have supported the event. They said more collaboration with UNCG and other Muslim organizations is needed to provide financial support for events.

- The representatives of the main supporter (Zakat Foundation) for the dinner said they are more than happy to be here and support the dinner. They said they try to help all people regardless of who they are and are looking forward to support following studies. They said there are many Muslim organizations and Muslims but they are disconnected and not organized to address issues of Muslim community and others.

- Three participants said how it is uncomfortable for them when their professors take Islam and Muslims in bad/violence/terrorist context and talk about that in the class. They said they do not feel comfortable what to say because they do not know a lot about what is happening all around the world and also scared of them dropping grades and etc. Another participant (after the event said) last week their professor talked about ISIS and how
Muslims are looking for revenge while other religions look for peace. They said they do not how but professors at UNCG should gain knowledge about Muslims and Islam. Another participant said as MSA and Muslim community we can invite them to such dinners and some other educational sessions.

- The police officer who attended to provide safety (the conductors of this study asked the police department to provide safety because about 15 participants whether in the survey or face to face asked to make it sure it is safe to attend the dinner) talked about how as UNCG police department they are willing to work with community and improve the relationship. The police officer also brought the idea of having a meeting to discuss what makes Muslims not feel safe to call the police when it is part of their job. Participants thanked a lot to the police officer for being there with them.

- Some participants expressed how they are not being heard by the media and the university and how individual efforts are not enough and could be dangerous and difficult to increase awareness of Muslims and Islam. Therefore, they said they need to feel comfortable and safe to have ablution and practice their prescribed prayers.

- A representative from the university newspaper, The Carolinian, said they are attending and taking notes about these concerns. They said they will take the permission of the ones talked to spread the information. Participants thanked to the representative for being there and giving a voice to their needs.

- An MSA board member said how they are thankful to Dr. Francisco and doctorate student in counseling department who is leading the study. They said this process has been so different from all other activities they do and this is very important to them both for now and future.

- Another participant asked how can we create solutions to increase personal relationship and safety and what should we do? Another participant said the solution is dynamic and may not have simple one way. They said all issues and items in the survey are related to each other; thereby, it is important to make it sure students do feel at home on the campus and do not face struggles because such struggles make them have to go off campus for different activities including praying, feeling comfortable staying on campus and studying, and helping their non-Muslims friends who ask questions about Islam and Muslims.

- Another non-Muslim participant, after the event, talked how they are organizing peace circles and how some Muslim students are also engaged. The participant said it was a privilege for them to attend and hear about the common concerns of the Muslims at UNCG.

- After the event, a few Muslim participants/undergraduate students wanted to get involve in following studies both to give something back to the society and also to improve their knowledge about how to conduct such studies. They also stated that how they have never thought about how counseling can address such community issues and can be beneficial. They asked for more information about counseling, the current study, and possible following studies and getting involved.

- The supporter for the dinner, a local market, Al-Iman, said it is good to have prayer place and watering cans in the restroom for this event. They thanked for being invited to the event.

- The MSA board members, after the event, again expressed their thanks for being engaged in such a process that means a lot to them to follow the issues and consider to organize future events and actions based on the survey results.

- Two non-Muslim participants sent emails and expressed that they were very helpful to have dinner with the Muslims and hear about their concerns. They also said that it is great to see counselor/psychologists are working with the community to make UNCG more inclusive.
An alumni who lives abroad thanked a lot to Dr. Francisco for the process and stated that the survey address many issues that she had while she was working with Dr. Francisco at UNCG.

The representatives from UNCG departments (counseling, public health, religious, history, student affairs, and so on) thanked for the dinner and expressed that it was great to have time with the Muslim community at UNCG.

An imam from Greensboro who has been attending many events by the university as speaker, who intended to attend the meeting and unfortunately could not, said it totally makes sense for him when he looks at the results and data and see that the most important issue is “having prayer place, rugs, and water in restroom.” He said if there is water around, a Muslim has to use water to get clean (clean genital area after using the restroom) to get ready to perform ablution and prescribed prayers (salah). He said these were the same issue for him when he was a college student years ago in the U.S.A. He said the university will do a great job by becoming more inclusive if they can address these issues. He said prayer place, water in restrooms, ablution station, and clean rugs to pray on are the heart of Muslims’ daily life and so they are the most important points to start from to make UNCG inclusive and diverse for all groups. He said solution to this first issue will more likely create solutions for all other issues as well, and without solving this issue it will get more difficult and complex and maybe impossible to create solutions to other issues. He thanked a lot for this study since he said he gets a lot demand from students and departments but unfortunately does not have time to address all issues and cannot find some others who will be able to fill in the gap.

Safety is a big issue for women on this campus.

We need to encourage respect by always representing ourselves well.

Need a consistent place to pray - meditation room, people may not know about it, and may not feel satisfied with it. There is a requirement for silence there, as many people use it.

Need water in restrooms for ablutions before prayer.

Not to have to move from one place to another for prayer. It is hard to know where this week’s place is.

Ask a Muslim, done by the MSA and others on campus. Sometimes awkward, and often do not feel secure when doing this, but it is important to promote dialog and understanding.

How to get more dialogs where people feel safe. The randomness of violence leads to feeling unsafe and insecure.

In USA we do not usually have ablution stations, even among practicing Muslims. Might be an issue for Muslims from other countries. Could do some education to address this??

Rugs are not present, may need to also be able to reserve the mediation room so that people can pray out loud, but that could exclude others from using it.

There are private bathrooms in the library. Can pray in many other places, our responsibility to use the resources we have available.

We should do more to find our own places, but the campus should do more too. We pay fees and tuition the same as everyone, and others get accommodations. We should too.

Other major public universities have an office for the MSA, and feel more secure too. We should look to them for examples of how it is done, so we can better advocate for ourselves.

We need to make sure that people know we appreciate what is provided here. It is also more than other places.

Need to figure out how to advocate and negotiation for our needs better.

More people need to join MSA so that we can advocate better for students on campus. It is not just for Muslim students. Anyone can join.
UNCG building a campus recreation building on Lee Street. Might need to talk with them to get access to their space, since other groups are making requests and getting space allocations there.

- We don’t have someone to whom we can go to discuss bad news. Need for a Chaplin too. Counseling too.
- Item 8. In order to have time on campus, it is very important for access to activities to have a place for us to pray here.
- Need to raise awareness. Sometimes we don’t know how to respond to others. Or we feel like we are representing all cultures, yet do not speak enough English to respond well.
- There may be a Chaplin here at UNCG in the fall. Not everyone knows about this yet.
- Solutions are dynamic, and are all related. People need to work from both sides.
- Item 29. Concerns about physical appearance and how that leads to comments, looks and negative interactions. How Muslim men and women look is very diverse. Need to keep the dialog going to find solutions to establishing more regular positive interactions.
- How do we keep the dialog going? Invite more inter group activities. Young life would be good to include, and even to walk at night on campus for safety together.
- There are other religious groups on campus; they offer dinners and other social opportunities. Not about recruiting, but definitely time to interact and get to know each other. Need to take advantage of existing opportunities.
- Could work with dean of students, and resident housing, and have programs to discuss Islam and being Muslim. Include RA’s across campus. They may not know about MSA.
- Student Government Association is another important connection, and need to have someone in Tuesday nights at 6 pm. Meetings are in the second floor EUC ballroom.
- How people, especially faculty represent Islam is important. There are often comments made by professors in classes that represent ignorance and anger about Islam and Muslim people. It is one thing to have a private opinion, but it is not good to spread ignorance in the classroom.
- Need to all get them involved in MSA. Awareness building is important.
- Concerns about correcting faculty, because this can lead to getting a lower grade in classes. We don’t have an independent advocate to address issues with faculty on campus.
- The best solution is to have a private prayer space for Muslim students. Also need to come together with MSA to deal with issues of faculty ignorance.
- Also need to let others outside of campus know what activities are happening here, and to include community people in MSA activities.
Community Concerns Report Summary
6 April 2015

UNCG 2015 -- Community Concerns Survey

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our survey. Your responses are completely anonymous and voluntary. You can stop this survey at any time, or choose not to respond to any of the questions. Please ask for assistance if you do not understand any question in the survey. We will be happy to explain it to you. This survey will likely take less than 10 minutes to complete.

The survey will close on Sunday, March 22, at midnight.

Your responses will be summarized with others, and will be discussed at a dinner and community meeting on March 27 at 530pm in room 160 of the Bryan Building. Dinner will be from 530 to 615pm, and the discussion of the results will be from 615 to 730pm. A place for prayer will be provided for the day. We will send you a reminder for the meeting, and hope you will join us, if you have time, to discuss the findings and help us understand how we can improve life on the UNCG campus.

For more information about this survey, and the community meeting, please send an email to Ahmet Tanhan <a_tanhan@uncg.edu> or Vincent T Francisco, PhD <vincent_francisco@uncg.edu>.

Instructions: In the first column, mark the number that shows how important each issue is to you. In the second column, mark the number that shows how satisfied you are with the current experience during your time at UNCG. If you find an item that does not apply to you, leave both columns blank. When answering these questions, please focus your attention on how these items relate to UNCG, not to the world in general.

Thank you for completing this survey.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>How important is it to you that...</th>
<th>How satisfied are you that...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not Important</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. You can practice your faith.</td>
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<td>2. Halal food is available on campus.</td>
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<td>3. Appropriate times are available for dining on campus during Ramadan.</td>
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<td>4. You have prayer places/rugs, ablution stations, and water in restrooms.</td>
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<td>5. You have access to a Muslim chaplain.</td>
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<td>6. UNCG community members prevent misconceptions or stereotypes about Islam.</td>
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<td>7. You are involved with the Muslim Student Association (MSA).</td>
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<td>8. You have time on campus and access to all of the facilities (e.g., recreation, social and academic).</td>
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<td>9. Your professors understand and respect time for prayers and make adjustments for classes.</td>
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<td>10. Students, faculty and staff improve relationships with others of different ethnic and faith backgrounds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. I (as a Muslim of UNCG) get support from other community organizations and the university.</td>
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## Community Concerns Report Summary

6 April 2015

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Not Important</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>12</td>
<td>You have good connections with Muslim community on the campus.</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>I (as a Muslim of UNCG) am able to attend different activities.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>I (as a Muslim of UNCG) feel safe.</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>I (as a Muslim of UNCG) am safe.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>You can spend time with people similar to yourself, in terms of ethnic/religious/cultural background.</td>
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<td>Counseling could be helpful for yourself or your community to address issues.</td>
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<td>You are able to improve your relationships with other Americans.</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>You consider MSA as an important resource for support.</td>
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<td>You are able to direct your friends who ask about Islam to resources on campus.</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>You are able to cope with difficult situations and pay attention to your academic studies.</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>You feel safe to call the police/security when faced with some disturbance (e.g., insult, threats).</td>
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<td>23.</td>
<td>Counselor(s) or psychologist(s) work with individuals or your community to address difficulties and increase the quality of life.</td>
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<td>You do not experience social difficulties in the USA during your education.</td>
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<td>You can accomplish the goals of your education in the USA.</td>
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<td>26.</td>
<td>You do not experience verbal or physical insults, or abuse.</td>
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<td>27.</td>
<td>You have access to counseling services.</td>
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<td>You have the support needed to handle sad news.</td>
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<td>29.</td>
<td>You are able to use recreation facilities (gym, swimming pool, etc.).</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
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<td>30.</td>
<td>You are pleased with your experience at UNCG.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
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<td>31.</td>
<td>You do not have to be concerned about your physical appearance.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
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<td>32.</td>
<td>Your belief/religion/spirituality is seen in a positive light/perspective by others.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
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<td>33.</td>
<td>You feel safe using counseling services that are available.</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
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Community Concerns Report Summary
6 April 2015

Are there other concerns that are not presented in this survey? (Please respond here especially if you cannot attend the dinner.)

Are there other supports that you wish were available on the UNCG campus that are not presented in this survey? (Please respond here especially if you cannot attend the dinner.)

I try to practice my faith...
- Daily
- With some regularity
- When it is convenient
- Occasionally
- Not at all

I identify as Muslim whether I try to practice Islam as my religion or not.
- Yes
- No

Sex:
- Male
- Female

Education:
- Interlink
- Freshman
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior
- Graduated or Alumni
- Other (e.g., graduate student, faculty, staff)

I plan to attend the community meeting and dinner on March 27 at 530pm, in 160 Bryan to discuss the results. (Please register using the link on the next page, if you would like us to send a reminder.)
- Yes
- No
Acknowledgements

This process, and this report, would not be possible except for the support and guidance of the Executive Board of the UNCG Muslim Student Association. We thank the following members, especially for their collaboration, endless input and patient, and wisdom to increase the quality of the community and the world they live in:

- Ahmad Aljasser
- Ayah Khalifa
- Lena Ragab
- Nada Alnajjar
- Sawsan Alnajjar
- Yasmin Ali

Additionally, there is a longer list of supporters for the dinner and the community meeting, this is the list who supported the dinner financially:

1. UNCG Counseling and Educational Development Department
2. UNCG Public Health Education Department
3. UNCG Peace and Conflict Studies Department
4. UNCG Communication Studies Department
5. Zakat Foundation of America (main supporter of the dinner)
6. Al Iman Market
7. El Baraka Market
8. Musiad USA
9. UNCG Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
10. GMSA (Graduate Muslim Student Association at University of Rochester)
11. IGMG (Islamic Community Milli Gorus)
12. Sarah’s Kabob Shop
13. UNCG Multicultural Affairs and the Student Affairs Division
14. Saudi Student Club at UNC
15. Madina Market
16. Greek Cuisine (address: Northgate Mall, 1058 w. Club blw. Durham NC, 27701)

We thank Enis Ucuncu, owner of the Greek Cuisine, who used to be a student at UNCG, for providing the best deal for and financially support the dinner. We also thank UNCG students Khulod Alamer, Turki Alzahraney, and Khalifa Almamari for helping distributing the survey and organizing the dinner.

Finally, we wish to thank the following professors at UNCG: Dr Craig S. Cashwell and Dr. J. Scott Young at the department of Counseling and Educational Development; Dr. Etsuko Kinefuchi at the department of Communication Studies, Dr. Omar H. Ali at the History Department, and Dr Irfan Safdar at Bryan School of Business and Economics for helping improving the items for the survey.

We also want to thank Dr Mark Villacorta who is assistant director of Multicultural Affairs at UNCG for their suggestions and support for the survey and dinner. We thank Dr Rod Wyatt, who is Director of Human Relations and whose support and encouragement was invaluable to the Muslim community. We wish to also thank the UNCG Police Department for their involvement in the Dinner and Community Meeting, especially Capt. Richard Bailey and Sgt. James B Smith.

This project was reviewed and approved by the UNCG Institutional Review Board.