

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2019-1021**

**TITLE: Student Body Resolution Supporting the Permanent Funding of More Disability Resource Center Learning Specialists**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Casey Witte, Senator Nicholas Meyer, Shannon Moriarty, Senator William Zelin, Minority Party Leader Felipe Gatos, Senator Sneh Patel**

**SPONSOR(S): Senator Rhodes Evans, Senator Jenna Yoss, Senator Olin Calvin, Senator Zarella Berrocal, Senator Rebecca Ragan, Senator Sam Jenkins**

**WHEREAS**, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) defines a person with a disability as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; and,

**WHEREAS**, this definition includes people who have a record of such an impairment, even if they do not currently have a disability; and,

**WHEREAS**, the ADA also makes it unlawful to discriminate against a person based on that person's association with a person with a disability; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida Disability Resource Center provides services including, but not limited to, accommodated testing, notes services, and academic accommodations for students with disabilities who are registered with the Disability Resource Center; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Disability Resource Center champions a universally accessible community that supports the holistic advancement of individuals with disabilities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Disability Resource Center employs learning specialists that provide students with one-on-one support and guidance; and,

**WHEREAS**, permanently funding more Disability Resource Center learning specialists plays an integral role in making sure that students with disabilities feel included and recognized on campus; and,

**WHEREAS**, during the 2012—2013 academic year the Disability Resource Center served 1,214 students<sup>3</sup>; and during the 2017—2018 academic year, 3,055 students were registered to receive help from the Disability Resource Center, more than twice the amount in the 2012—2013 academic year; and,

**WHEREAS**, despite the increase in students receiving help at the Disability Resource Center, few additional learning specialists have been hired in the meantime, and as of 2018 there were 442 students for each learning specialist; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Local Fee Committee has recommended that the Health Fee be increased, in part to hire a new Learning Specialist that would help address the increased traffic<sup>4</sup>; then,

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**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the needs of the Disability Resource Center and the students that it serves.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate reaffirms the Local Fee Committee's decision to allocate a portion of the increased Health Fee should be allocated to the Disability Resource Center.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the allocation of such funds to employ a sufficient number of learning specialists to accommodate student usage and demand for resources provided by the Disability Resource Center.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the further development of the Disability Resource Center to help move the University of Florida closer to becoming a top-5 public university.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. David Parrott, Assistant Dean/Director Gerry Altamirano, Senior Director Leslie Pendleton, Assistant Vice President Mary Kay Carodine, Provost Joseph Glover, External Affairs Director Emily Dempsey, Student Body Treasurer Stefan Sanguyo, and Student Body President Ian Green.*

[1] <https://adata.org/faq/what-definition-disability-under-ada>

[2] <https://disability.ufl.edu/about/history-and-mission/>

[3] [https://www.alligator.org/news/uf-increases-funding-resources-for-drc/article\\_2ff1a972-4115-11e8-845f-a7c13629aa68.html](https://www.alligator.org/news/uf-increases-funding-resources-for-drc/article_2ff1a972-4115-11e8-845f-a7c13629aa68.html)

[4] [https://www.alligator.org/news/student-fees-may-increase-after-local-fee-committee-vote/article\\_08379d54-d802-11e8-b3a5-f7371cb39937.html](https://www.alligator.org/news/student-fees-may-increase-after-local-fee-committee-vote/article_08379d54-d802-11e8-b3a5-f7371cb39937.html)

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- [4] [https://www.alligator.org/news/student-fees-may-increase-after-local-fee-committee-vote/article\\_08379d54-d802-11e8-b3a5-f7371cb39937.html](https://www.alligator.org/news/student-fees-may-increase-after-local-fee-committee-vote/article_08379d54-d802-11e8-b3a5-f7371cb39937.html)