

**STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2019-103**

**TITLE: Student Senate Resolution Celebrating Black History Month**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Mackintosh Joachim, Senator Che John, Senator Daziah Scurry, Senator Mike Indigo, Senator Molishka Heriveaux, Senator Stephen Singleton, Senator Tyler Kendrick**

**SPONSOR(S): Black Student Union President Akil Reynolds, UF chapter of NAACP President Ashley Marceus, Senate President Michael Murphy, Senate President Pro-Tempore Libby Shaw, Majority Party Leader Cooper Brown, Minority Party Leader Felipe Gatos, Leadership Development and Involvement Cabinet Director Lauredan Official, Senator Alexa Entringer, Senator Brianna Adan, Senator Lindsay Kaighin, Senator Gabi Zlatanoff, Senator Zachariah Chou, Student Body President Ian Green**

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is celebrated each year during the month of February to acknowledge and celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of African-Americans in art, science, entertainment, education, politics, and sports [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Negro History Week, the predecessor to Black History Month, was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, and was first celebrated on February 1, 1926 [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Negro History Week was expanded to Black History Month in 1976 by President Gerald Ford, who urged more Americans to recognize the contributions of African-Americans [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Black History Month is a time to reflect on the struggles and victories of African-Americans throughout our country's history and to recognize their numerous contributions to this nation; and,

**WHEREAS**, there are an estimated 46.8 million African-American residents in the United States as of 2016 [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida community consists of students with diverse ethnicities, cultures, and backgrounds; and,

**WHEREAS**, 7.18% percent of the University of Florida population is comprised of black or African-American students [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the black community at the University of Florida has contributed immensely to the success of the University of Florida since being desegregated in 1958; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida's Black Affairs aims to create, sustain, promote, and affirm Black scholarship, culture, history, and leadership [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida Black Student Union hosts various events to celebrate Black History Month in partnership with many other student organizations; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida Student Government remains committed to supporting students and constantly working to become more culturally aware and inclusive; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the significance of Black History Month as an important time to celebrate the contribution of African-Americans to this nation's history.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate celebrates the positive impact members of the Black community continue to have at the University of Florida.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate is committed to supporting initiatives aimed at increasing the black population at the University of Florida.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** the University of Florida Student Senate proclaims February 1st through February 28th as Black History Month and calls upon the student body of the University of Florida to come together to embrace and celebrate the African-American community.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Senior Director Will Atkins, Director of Black Affairs Carl Simien, and Student Body President Ian Green.*

[1] <https://www.britannica.com/topic/African-American-History-Month>

[2] <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2018/black-history-month.html>

[3] <https://ir.aa.ufl.edu/uffacts/enrollment-1/>

[4] <https://blackaffairs.multicultural.ufl.edu/>



Michael Murphy  
Senate President

2/22/19  
Date