

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2019-1059**

**TITLE: Resolution to Stand in Solidarity with the People of Paris and the Christian Community**

**AUTHORS: Colin Solomon, Senator Sophia Bond**

**SPONSORS: Catholic Gators, Senator Nick Meyer, Senator Solmaz Karimi, Senator Gabi Zlatanoff, Senator Jessica Martinez, Senator Anthony Portugues, Senator Rebecca Ragan, Senator Gabbi Hernandez, Senator Casey Witte, Christina Pugliese, Senator Lindsay Kaighin, Senator Brady Alexander, Allocations Committee Chairwoman Katie Hernandez, Senator Brianna Adan, Senator Noah Wright**

**WHEREAS**, the Notre-Dame de Paris Catholic cathedral on the Île de la Cité in Paris has been a recognizable symbol of Paris and the French nation since its completion in 1345<sup>1</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, alongside the Sacré-Cœur Basilica, the Notre-Dame de Paris has been a holy pilgrimage site for the world's Christians in Paris since its construction<sup>2</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Western facade, spire, rose windows, and flying buttresses of the Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral are some of the most famed examples of French Gothic architecture in the world<sup>3,4</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Notre-Dame de Paris has been home to many of the world's religious artifacts and works of art including the crown of thorns worn by Jesus of Nazareth during his crucifixion, the tunic of St. Louis, and various paintings<sup>5</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral has stood witness to over 850 years of French history, including the coronation of Napoléan Bonaparte, the French Revolution, World War I, and World War II, the latter of which included the Nazi occupation of France<sup>6</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, following the publication of Victor Hugo's *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, interest in the Notre-Dame de Paris surged, solidifying the cathedral's popularity<sup>6</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Notre-Dame de Paris hosts 12 million visitors annually, making it Paris' most visited monument and one of the most visited monuments in the world<sup>7</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Notre-Dame Cathedral caught fire on the April 15th, 2019<sup>1,4,5,6,7</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, the 155-year-old Notre-Dame cathedral spire collapsed during the fire<sup>1</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, the fire destroyed religious relics present in the spire at the time of its collapse including a fragment of the crown of thorns and relics of Saint Denis and Saint Genevieve, the patron saints of Paris<sup>5</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, the stone structure, stained glass windows, the crown of thorns, and the tunic of St. Louis were saved from the blaze at the Notre-Dame de Paris<sup>5</sup>; and,

**WHEREAS**, French President Emmanuel Macron has vowed Notre-Dame Cathedral will be rebuilt and restored<sup>7</sup>; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the historic and religious significance of the Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the burning of the Notre-Dame Cathedral was a tragedy.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate stands in solidarity with the people of Paris and members of the Christian community during this time.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President of the University of Florida W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Dave Parrott, UF Dean of Students Heather White, UF Student Body President Ian Green, UF Student Body Vice President David Enriquez, UF Student Body Treasurer Stefan Sanguyo, UF Interfaith Affairs Director Dean Hasan, Student Body President-elect Michael Murphy, UF Student Body Vice President-elect Sarah Abraham, and UF Student Body Treasurer-elect Santiago Gutierrez.*

1 <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-news/notre-dame-cathedral-fire-dozens-investigating-notre-dame-fire-cause-today-2019-04-17-live-updates/>

2 <http://www.notredamedeparis.fr/en/la-cathedrale/histoire/850-ans-de-la-cathedrale/partez-en-e-pelerinage/>

3 <http://www.notredamedeparis.fr/la-cathedrale/histoire/historique-de-la-construction/>

4 <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2019/04/16/notre-dame-cathedral-architecture-french-gothic-style-explained/3476359002/>

5 <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/notre-dame-cathedral-fire-what-was-saved-lost-crown-of-thorns-tunic-windows/>

6 <https://www.thevintagenews.com/2019/04/16/notre-dame-fire/>

7 <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/ct-edit-notre-dame-burns-20190415-story.html>