

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2019-1083

TITLE: Resolution Welcoming Bianca Z. Quiñones as New Hispanic-Latino Affairs Director

AUTHOR(S): Senator Anthony Portugues, Latinx Caucus Leader Mauricio Perez

SPONSOR(S): Senator Kevin Trejos, Senator Alana Rush, Senator Mary Faas, Senator Alfredo Ortiz, Latinx Caucus Leader Maria Espinoza, Diversity Cabinet Chair Stephanie Beltran, Students Taking Action Against Racism Agency Head Derlis Leyva, Hispanic Student Association President Isabella Oliver, Florida Latinx Hispanic American Student Union President Katie Hernandez, Senator Maria Espinoza

WHEREAS, Hispanic-Latino Affairs was founded at the University of Florida in May of 1994 when the house at 1504 W. University Avenue became dedicated as the Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures, commonly known as “La Casita” [1]; and,

WHEREAS, “La Casita” was created with a mission of “[empowering] the Hispanic-Latino community through advocacy, social justice, fellowship, and outreach” [2]; and,

WHEREAS, in 2016 the Hispanic-Latino Engagement Center, commonly known as “La Salita,” was created on the second floor of the J. Wayne Reitz Student Union in the Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Suite [2]; and,

WHEREAS, both locations served as a home away from home, a safe space and a brave space for students from a broad array of backgrounds; and,

WHEREAS, in August 2017 “La Casita” was demolished with plans to rebuild [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the new Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures is scheduled to be completed in the Fall Semester of 2019 [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the position of Hispanic-Latino Affairs Director has been vacant since December 2018 following the resignation of the previous director; and,

WHEREAS, the process of interviewing candidates for the vacant position was rigorous, and considered many different aspects of qualification including, but not limited to the following: experience, goals and creative vision, opinion of the Hispanic-Latino Affairs team, and opinion of the Hispanic and Latinx campus community; and,

WHEREAS, the candidate chosen over other very qualified individuals to welcome the Hispanic-Latinx campus community to their new “Casita” was Bianca Z. Quiñones; and,

WHEREAS, Quiñones received a Bachelor’s degree in Human Development and Family Sciences at Oregon State University and a Master’s degree in Higher Education Administration with an emphasis on Student Affairs Administration at Texas A&M University [5]; and,

WHEREAS, Quiñones previously served as the coordinator for Veteran Programs in the Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion at Texas State University [5]; and,

WHEREAS, Quiñones also previously served as a Case Manager for the Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults [5]; and,

WHEREAS, Will Atkins, the Associate Dean of Students and Senior Director of Multicultural and Diversity Affairs, stated that he chose Quiñones for her critical thinking, commitment to students, and professionalism [5]; and,

WHEREAS, Quiñones began her term as Director of Hispanic-Latino Affairs on July 1st, 2019; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Government Senate recognizes the importance of Hispanic-Latino Affairs to the University of Florida Hispanic and Latinx community.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Government Senate recognizes that a qualified and fully staffed Department of Hispanic-Latino Affairs is integral to a united and empowered Hispanic and Latinx community.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Government Senate welcomes Hispanic-Latino Affairs Director Bianca Z. Quiñones to the Gator Nation.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the University of Florida President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Dr. Joseph Glover, Dean of Students Dr. Heather White, Dean of the International Center Leonardo A Villión, Associate Dean of Students and Senior Director of Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Will Atkins, Director of Hispanic Latino Affairs Bianca Z. Quiñones, Hispanic-Latino Affairs Graduate Assistant Juan Pulido, STAAR Agency Head Derlis Leyva, Diversity Cabinet Chair Stephanie Beltran, and Hispanic Student Association President Isabella Oliver.

[1] <https://hispaniclatinoaffairs.multicultural.ufl.edu/about/history/>

[2] <https://hispaniclatinoaffairs.multicultural.ufl.edu/about/missionvision-goals/>

[3] https://www.alligator.org/news/the-ibc-and-la-casita-demolished-for-reconstruction/article_e48c108e-85b8-11e7-be1d-f78341a5e0b5.html

[4] https://www.alligator.org/news/la-casita-and-ibc-are-making-progress-here-s-when/article_67029158-29c5-11e9-b4de-df8332e8e02e.html

[5] https://www.alligator.org/news/uf-welcomes-new-program-director-of-hispanic-latinx-affairs/article_18673ada-8a0a-11e9-b057-cbd50cceb3af.html