

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2019-1101

TITLE: Resolution Recognizing Campus Safety Concerns and Recommending Additional Proactive Resources

AUTHOR(S): Senator Tyler Kendrick and Senator Matthew Diaz

SPONSOR(S): Senator David Kays, Senator Annabelle Groux, Senator Lindsay Kaighin, Senator Feraby Hoffman, Senator Brady Alexander, Senator Timothy Miller, Senator Audrey Wikan, Senator Julia Cordover, Senator Sparsha Muralidhara, Senator Shawn Zimmer, and Senator Sana Nimer

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation defines aggravated assaults as any unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Police Department has reported that aggravated assaults have been on the rise since 2016 [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the Association of American Universities, in coordination with the University of Florida, released a Campus Climate survey that revealed 30.1% of undergraduate women and 7.7% of undergraduate men experienced nonconsensual sexual contact by force or inability to consent [3]; and,

WHEREAS, this figure has increased for undergraduate women by 9.8% since the last iteration of this survey in 2015; and,

WHEREAS, President Kent Fuchs said in a monthly newspaper column, in response to the survey, “What is abundantly clear is that we need to do more to eliminate sexual assault” [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the Campus Climate survey additionally revealed that 45% of all University of Florida students experienced at least one type of harassment; and,

WHEREAS, on September 29th, Edward Parkhill, a second-year at the University of Florida, was walking home at night when he was assaulted at around 2:00 a.m in Midtown [5]; and,

WHEREAS, the assault happened directly across from campus, near Sushi Chao at 1620 W. University Ave; and,

WHEREAS, after being rushed to Shands Hospital, it was determined that Parkhill sustained an attack which left him with a fractured skull and life threatening brain trauma [6]; and,

WHEREAS, on October 5th, a University of Florida student came forward about being sexually assaulted on campus, near Stadium Road, also discussing her subsequent mental health struggles and her suicide attempt [7]; and,

WHEREAS, on September 18th, a University of Florida student came forward about being sexually assaulted in Rawlings Hall [8]; and,

WHEREAS, on September 10th, a University of Florida student came forward about being sexually assaulted in Jennings Hall [9]; and,

WHEREAS, on August 28th, a former resident assistant at the University of Florida was arrested facing charges of sexual battery [10]; and,

WHEREAS, on August 9th, a former University of Florida football player was dismissed from the team after being accused of raping an underage teenager [11]; and,

WHEREAS, the Independent Florida Alligator wrote that, since 2015, 83 individual identification numbers involving sexual battery are listed on the University Police Department's incident logs and that, of those, three have led to arrests while 67 are pending [12]; and,

WHEREAS, the increased pattern of assault on Gators on campus is likely to produce an atmosphere of fear, leading to a decline in academic performance and mental wellbeing [13]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Student Body Constitution charges Student Government with the responsibility to "represent and defend the rights and interests of students to the university, the community, and the government." and to "enact all laws necessary and proper for the general wellbeing of the Student Body" [14]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Green Dot Gators program exists and was created to help reduce the prevalence of violence on campus through educational outreach, strengthening intervention services, the sharing of student experiences, and the transition to a campus culture that is intolerant of violence [15]; and,

WHEREAS, University President Fuchs wrote on campus safety, saying that "UF needs to take a close look at what more we can do, while identifying our shortcomings and reexamining our approaches. We also need to do more to look out for each other's well-being. Together, we must create a safe, supportive, and caring university for all." [16]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate stands in solidarity with survivors of assault, recognizes the importance of campus safety, and is fully committed to providing a secure campus environment.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the efforts of the University of Florida Police Department, the Department of Emergency Management, and the Dean of Students Office in providing resources and opportunities to remain safe on campus.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need for additional proactive resources for reducing the rate of assault on

campus and respectfully recommends further implementation of preventative programs, such as but not limited to mandatory Green Dot training for all Student Government officials, sorority and fraternity officers, and student organization officers.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that, in the interest of public good, the University of Florida Student Senate commits itself to ensuring campus safety and the general well-being of all students and faculty.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs Winfred Phillips, Dean of Students Heather White, UF Police Chief Linda Stump-Kurnick, Director of Housing & Residence Education Calvin Mosley, Senior Director of Housing & Residence Education Tina Horvath, Student Body President Michael Murphy, Student Body Vice President Sarah Abraham, Student Body Treasurer Santiago Gutierrez, and Internal Affairs Agency Head John Molm.

- [1] <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2017/crime-in-the-u.s.-2017/topic-pages/aggravated-assault>
- [2] <https://police.ufl.edu/media/policeufl.edu/documents/reports/2019-Gainesville-ASFSR-Final.pdf>
- [3] <https://news.ufl.edu/2019/10/campus-climate-results/>
- [4] https://www.alligator.org/opinion/news-that-should-prompt-real-change/article_f519e5b2-f135-11e9-84af-735035837d18.html?block_id=1494496
- [5] https://www.alligator.org/news/uf-student-attacked-near-midtown-left-critically-injured/article_02196a18-efbe-11e9-94a5-33cbbce105eb.html
- [6] <https://www.gofundme.com/f/parkhill-family-recovery>
- [7] https://www.alligator.org/news/alligator-investigates-sexual-violence-on-campus-part-i/article_a654d378-e0e7-11e9-b7ea-43860243a3a6.html
- [8] https://www.alligator.org/news/uf-student-reportedly-raped-at-rawlings-hall-police-say/article_19e760aa-da60-11e9-af2a-179d7efc2a7c.html
- [9] https://www.alligator.org/news/uf-student-reported-she-was-raped-in-jennings-hall-upd/article_03622c12-d41f-11e9-9b96-9fab926c54c5.html
- [10] https://www.alligator.org/news/former-uf-resident-assistant-arrested-now-facing-an-attempted-sexual/article_5b45447a-d689-11e9-b4a2-3f25bb1c640f.html
- [11] https://www.alligator.org/news/dismissed-uf-football-player-john-huggins-accused-of-rape/article_c78fc3dc-db69-11e9-8ef7-4fcd767e7c55.html
- [12] https://www.alligator.org/news/alligator-investigates-sexual-violence-on-campus-part-i/article_a654d378-e0e7-11e9-b7ea-43860243a3a6.html
- [13] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/263349419_Violence_on_college_campuses_Understanding_its_impact_on_student_well-being
- [14] <https://www.sg.ufl.edu/Portals/0/2016%20Constitution%20Finalized.pdf?ver=2017-01-25-140342-633#page=2>
- [15] <http://fora.aa.ufl.edu/docs/78/20182019/Green%20Dot%20Gators%20Toolkit%20for%20Faculty.pdf>
- [16] https://www.alligator.org/opinion/news-that-should-prompt-real-change/article_f519e5b2-f135-11e9-84af-735035837d18.html?block_id=1494496