

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2019-1107**

**TITLE: Resolution Applauding the Reconstruction and Reinstallation of the Institute of Black Culture and the Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures (La Casita)**

**AUTHOR(S): Gator Party Leader Gabriela Hernandez and Chomp the Vote Vice Chair Mateo Haydar**

**SPONSOR(S): Senate President Emily Dunson, Judiciary Chairman Branden Pearson, Rules and Ethics Chairwoman Abby Morris, Budget and Appropriations Chairman Cooper Brown, Senate Member at Large Alana Rush, Cabinet Leadership and Service Chair Lauredan Official, Cabinet Multicultural Director Robyn Louis, Senator Marcus Nelson, and Senator Wynton White**

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida strives to promote a safe and inclusive campus environment that encourages diversity of backgrounds, cultures, and thought; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Institute of Black Culture and the Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures (La Casita) have been historically integral components for community building and cultural enrichment on the University of Florida campus; and,

**WHEREAS**, the UF Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Office has guided and strived for the delivery of a successful reconstruction and reopening of both institutes for over two years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida has invested \$9.9 million, through the UF Capital Improvement Trust Fund, in the reconstruction project, in order to meet the current needs of students and preserve the cultural history represented by each facility; and,

**WHEREAS**, the reconstruction of the new facilities has been finalized and both institutes were scheduled to be inaugurated with ribbon-cutting ceremonies and opened to the public on November 16th and 17th; and,

**WHEREAS**, the new facilities have been designed and built to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification standards; and,

**WHEREAS**, multiple communities, individual students, alumni, faculty, and student organizations on campus, notably including the Black Student Union and the Hispanic Student Association, expect to benefit from the expansion of new spaces on campus for studying, community interaction, open dialogue, research exposition, and cultural expression; and,

**WHEREAS**, many students and alumni have expressed their support for the reconstruction of the new facilities and their potential long-term significance on the University of Florida campus; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida recognizes the historic efforts of student leaders and advocates in freely expressing their support for the initial installments of the Institute of Black Cultures and the Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures (La Casita); then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Government Senate supports the successful reconstruction of the Institute of Black Culture and Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures (La Casita) on the University of Florida campus.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Government Senate applauds the UF Administration, the Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Office, and different student organizations involved for their efforts in supporting the reconstruction and reinstallation of the new facilities.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Government Senate invites students and faculty from across campus to visit and learn more about the newly opened facilities.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Government Senate remains committed to creating a safe and open environment for the peaceful exchange and expression of diverse cultures, backgrounds, and ideas.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, interim Vice President of Student Affairs Win Phillips, incoming Vice President of Student Affairs D'Andra Mull, Chief Diversity Officer Anthony Farias, Associate Dean of Students and Senior Director of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs Will Atkins, Director of Black Affairs Carl Simien, Director of Hispanic-Latinx Affairs Bianca Quinones, Hispanic Student Association President Isabella Oliver, and Black Student Union President Ashley Garner*