

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2020-1016**

**TITLE: Resolution Supporting the Translation of Official Emails Coming from the University of Florida**

**AUTHORS: Senator Matthew Rodriguez and Latinx Caucus Co-Chair Santiago Clavijo-Gomez**

**SPONSORS: Hispanic Student Association President Victoria Grant, Latinx Caucus Co-Chair Kevin Trejos, Senator Matthew Diaz, Senator Kevin Marti, Senator Faith Allen, Minority Leader Colin Solomon, and STAAR Co-Chairs Gabriela Pombo & Julianah Celophat**

**WHEREAS**, with 15.36% of the student body identifying as Hispanic/Latinx, 7.38% identifying as Asian and 6.97% identifying as Black [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to an Alligator report when it was published, the University of Florida had received an F on race equity by the University of Southern California as there are 6.1% Black students at the University of Florida and 21.5% Florida residents aged 18 to 24 that are Black and in need of more cultural representation [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, students whose native language is not English may be more comfortable reading emails in those languages, this ensures we provide the same quality of access of information to all; and,

**WHEREAS**, even if a student may speak English, parents sometimes have the emails sent to them and they might understand the content easier when in one of these languages; and,

**WHEREAS**, some students may speak English, they might not be as proficient in it relative to their native language, this ensures no confusion or misinterpretation of important information; and,

**WHEREAS**, according to The Hill, there has been an increasing concern over coronavirus information being delayed and in less detail; and, on the day this article was published information from the federal government was occasionally delayed when it came to non-English languages [3]; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Government Senate recognizes that the first language of students at the University of Florida may not be

English, and may be, but not limited to, Mandarin Chinese, Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Arabic, Hindi, Gujarati, Korean, Urdu, French, German and Russian.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Government Senate encourages translating as many languages as possible, especially languages that are more common such as Mandarin Chinese, Creole, Spanish and Portuguese.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Government Senate supports the translation of official university emails in Mandarin Chinese, Creole, Spanish and Portuguese and recommends the creation of a committee that can translate communications in these four languages.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Student Body President Trevor Pope, Chief Diversity Officer Antonio Farias, Diversity Cabinet Chair Robyn Louis, Asian Pacific Islander Desi Affairs Director Jack Nguyen, Director of Black Affairs Carl Simien, Director of Hispanic-Latinx Affairs Bianca Quinones, Hispanic Student Association President Victoria Grant, Asian American Student Union Co-Presidents Zachary Raad and Britney Rengert, Black Student Union President Symphany Lindsay, Indian Students Association President Anisha Patel, STAAR Co-Chairs Gabriela Pombo and Julianah Celophat.*

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

[2] [https://www.alligator.org/opinion/if-you-want-diversity-don-t-look-for-it-at/article\\_3db721e6-0f3a-11ea-be0f-6757922de64b.html](https://www.alligator.org/opinion/if-you-want-diversity-don-t-look-for-it-at/article_3db721e6-0f3a-11ea-be0f-6757922de64b.html)

[3] <https://thehill.com/latino/488834-language-barriers-hamper-coronavirus-response>