

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2020-1032

TITLE: Resolution Denouncing Digital Racism and Demanding Accountability

AUTHOR(S): Senator Zachery Utt, Assistant Minority Party Leader Sahil Patel

SPONSORS: Jewish Student Union, UF College Democrats, The Gator Chapter of the NAACP, Sikh Students Association, Volunteers for International Student Affairs, Black Student Union, Alachua NAACP

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WHEREAS, according to UF regulation, “In the admission of students, the University may consider an applicant’s character”¹; and,

WHEREAS, if character may be used as a basis for admitting a student, then character may be used as a basis for rescinding a student’s admission; and,

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2020, it was revealed that a young woman who had been accepted to the UF Class of 2024 had published an Instagram post² degrading two of her black classmates by making racist comments; and,

WHEREAS, according to an official statement from the University of Florida, the language used in the post was “disturbing, offensive and deeply troubling”² ; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida’s Gainesville campus has a documented and repeated history of racially motivated hate crimes within the past 5 years³; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida honor pledge demands we “hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity”⁴; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes this post as heinous, threatening and antithetical to the values of the University of Florida.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate requests that the University Administration include a strict zero tolerance policy for bigotry and hate speech on the University’s application portal and application homepage.

¹ 3 U.F. § 1.016 (1996), <https://regulations.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/1016-FINAL.pdf>.

² @UF. “We have recently been made aware of posts shared online during the past several days alleging that UF students or prospective students made racist and threatening comments on social media. We find the posts to be disturbing, offensive and deeply troubling,..” Twitter, 3 Jun, 2020, 10:44 AM, twitter.com/UF/status/1268191938177462273.

³ Police Department, University of Florida. “2019 University of Florida Annual Security And Fire Safety Reports:” *Together For A Safe Campus*, 2019, police.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/reports/2019-Gainesville-ASFSR-Final.pdf.

⁴ “Student Honor Code And Student Conduct Code.” *Violations Of The Student Honor Code*, UF Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution, sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes this post as a stark violation of the integrity clause designated within the University of Florida Student Honor Pledge, and therefore the University of Florida Student Honor Code.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate formally implores the Administration to rescind the perpetrator's admission to the University.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that the post constitutes an offense against the student body defined in the University of Florida Student Body Constitution.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate formally refers the perpetrator to the UF Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution office for charges on the aforementioned offense against the student body and for violations of the UF Student Honor Pledge.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Joe Glover, Vice President of Enrollment Management Zina L. Evans, Vice President of Student Affairs D'andra Mull, Director of Freshman and International Admissions Charles Murphy, Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Pamela Malyk, Honor Court Chancellor Isabella Romance, Chief Diversity Officer Antonio Farias, Director of the Honors Program Mark Law, and Dean of Students Heather White.