

## **STUDENT SENATE BILL 2022-1019**

**TITLE: Resolution Celebrating 50 Years of Women's Athletics at the University of Florida**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Evan Asuncion, Women's Caucus Co-Leader Faith Corbett, Women's Caucus Co-Leader Catherine Giordano, Senate President Elizabeth Hartzog**

**SPONSORS: Senator Jonathan Stephens, Senator Oscar Santiago, Senator Raj Mia, Senator Catherine Gomez, Senator Taylor Hoerle, Senator Isabelle Gerzenshtein, Senator Hana Ali, Senator Savannah Partridge, Deputy Minority Party Leader Mohammed Faisal, Member-at-Large Jacey Cable, Judiciary Vice-Chair Mason Solomon, Senator Bronson Allemand, Senator Saketh Damera, Senator Jacob Kanfer, Senator Mara Vaknin, Senator Johnny Liu, Senator Paola Torro, Senator Shelby Schultz, Senator Taylor Soukup, Senator Ryan Athay**

**WHEREAS**, a proposal written by Dr. Ruth Alexander, Donna Deutsch, Linda Hall Thornton, and Mimi Ryan requesting a women's program of intercollegiate athletics was happily approved by the University of Florida in 1972 a few months before Title IX was signed into law by President Richard Nixon [1, 2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, this marked an important moment in history because the University of Florida, at that time, was the only school in the Southeastern Conference to accomplish funding a women's program [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida currently funds the maximum number of scholarships allowed by the NCAA for each of its eleven (11) women's sports to ensure gender equity [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida is committed to improving the athletic facilities available to its athletes by spending approximately \$7,440,000 on the women's soccer and lacrosse teams' shared facility in 2022 [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida Women's Athletics program has won twenty-one (21) national team titles out of the forty-three (43) national team titles that the University of Florida has obtained overall [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Women’s Athletics has won one hundred fifty-nine (159) NCAA titles and is ranked No. 4 among the nation’s programs [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, there have been a total of ninety-two (92) Olympians from the University of Florida’s Women’s Athletics program claiming a total of sixty-four (64) Olympic medals [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida is celebrating the 50-year anniversary of Florida Women’s Athletics in 2022 [1]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate honors the four trailblazing women—Dr. Ruth Alexander, Donna Deutsch, Linda Hall Thornton, and Mimi Ryan—who advocated for a Women’s Athletic program back in 1972.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that the University of Florida continues to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments and milestones of the University of Florida’s Women’s Athletics program.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate praises the women who represent the Florida Gators because of their athleticism, perseverance, and commitment to the University.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women’s Athletics program at the University of Florida.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. D’Andra Mull, Dean of Students Heather White, Athletic Director Scott Stricklin, Student Body President Lauren Lemasters*

[1] <https://floridagators.com/news/2021/9/21/50-year-anniversary-of-florida-womens-athletics-kicks-off-this-weekend.aspx>

[2] <https://floridagators.com/news/2021/10/22/50-years-gators-womens-golf-feature.aspx>

[3] <https://www.alligator.org/article/2022/01/gator-athletic-teams-recieve-new-facilities>

[4] <https://floridagators.com/sports/2015/12/10/overview.aspx>