

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2022-1039

TITLE: Resolution Acknowledging International Student Achievements and Equality Among the Student Body

AUTHOR(S): Senator Hana Ali, Senator Grace Shoemaker

SPONSOR(S): Minority Party Leader Faith Corbett, Deputy Minority Party Leader Gabriela Montes, Senator Cassandra Urbenz, Senator Oscar Santiago, Senator Ryan Athay

WHEREAS, the University of Florida hosts over 6,000 international students from 140 countries, more than half of whom are seeking a graduate degree at the highest level [1, 2]; and,

WHEREAS, the top six (6) countries of international student origin are India, China, South Korea, Taiwan, Brazil, and Venezuela [3]; and,

WHEREAS, it is not uncommon for international students to face a plethora of challenges, including, but not limited to, language barriers, social and cultural differences, discrimination, financial difficulties, and psychological stresses [4]; and,

WHEREAS, on top of these limitations, further disadvantages were placed upon international students, such as time differences, travel restrictions, and foreign government restrictions towards websites and platforms, including Canvas due to the COVID-19 pandemic [2,5]; and,

WHEREAS, despite these barriers, international students at UF have contributed to groundbreaking research and innovation, from deep learning prediction models [6], antibiotic-resistance studies [7], environmental and nanoparticle novelties [8,9], all of which allowed UF to surpass \$1 billion in research funding [10]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida recognizes these achievements through events such as the annual International Student Achievement Awards (ISAA) [11]; and,

WHEREAS, international students not only bring cultural and economic value to the University of Florida, but also enrich the learning environment and technical capabilities of the school [12]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that international students sacrifice a great deal to pursue higher education; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges the contributions of international students to the prestige of our university and the student experience; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate also recognizes the inequalities placed on international students at our campus, and we encourage student and faculty leaders to do what they can when witnessing these forms of disparity.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the University of Florida International Center, University President Kent W. Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, University Interim Dean of Students, Jonathan Yorkowitz, University Graduate School Associate Provost, and Dean Nicole Stedman.

[1] <https://www.eng.ufl.edu/students/students/international/international-students/>

[2] <https://covidinternational.alligator.org/>

[3] <https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/new-international-student-numbers-are>

[4] <https://www.mghclaycenter.org/parenting-concerns/young-adults/international-college-students/>

[5] <https://www.alligator.org/article/2021/03/time-zone-international-students-covid>

[6] <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0926580522001054>

[7] <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1040841X.2020.1715339>

[8] <https://www.mdpi.com/2504-3129/3/1/9>

[9] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6004320/>

[10] <https://news.ufl.edu/2022/07/one-billion-in-research-funding/>

[11] <https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/international-student-achievement-awards>

[12] <https://fordmurraylaw.com/4-benefits-bringing-foreign-students-study-american-universities/>