

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1244

TITLE: Resolution Celebrating and Proclaiming Bisexual Awareness Week and the Importance of Sexuality Inclusivity at the University of Florida

AUTHOR(S): Judiciary Chair Jonathan C. Stephens

SPONSOR(S): Student Body President Olivia Green, Student Body Vice-President Clara Calavia, Student Body Treasurer Nyla Pierre, Student Senate President Oscar Santiago Perez, Student Senate President Pro Tempore Nathan McGinnis, Majority Party Leader Wilson Roberts, Minority Party Leader Simone Liang, Judiciary Vice-Chair Joaquin R.C. Marcelino, Senator Nathaniel Pelton, Senator Saketh Damara, Senator Laurie Wang, Senator Matthew Reich

WHEREAS, bisexuality - commonly referred to as “bi” - is defined as a sexuality which can hold “the capacity to form attraction and/or relationships to more than one gender.” [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control released to the public that Bisexuality comprises 75% of young people who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the National College Health Assessment at UF in 2022 calculated that 10.6% of the respondents identified as bisexual [3]; and,

WHEREAS, bisexuality does not automatically conform to the gender cis-binary despite the usage of the prefix “bi” within the word [4]; and,

WHEREAS, in 1993, the University of Florida-based Gay and Lesbian Student Union (GLSU) changed its name to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Student Union (LGBSU) to reflect the growing need for inclusivity across the sexuality spectrum within campus [5]; and,

WHEREAS, while occupying a significant sector of the LGBTQ+ community, bisexual individuals are the least likely to disclose their sexual identity in comparison to their other sexuality counterparts [6]; and

WHEREAS, for many bisexual individuals, they suffer from unique social pressures such as delegitimization, accusations of promiscuity, and stereotypes that reduce their sexuality as being just a “phase” [6]; and,

WHEREAS, many bisexual-identifying individuals “facestriking rates of poor health outcomes ranging from cancer and obesity” [7]; and,

WHEREAS, with making up such a large portion of the LGBTQ+ community, it is critical that the University of Florida campus galvanized behind advancing and promoting the betterment of bisexual-identifying individuals; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate proclaims and celebrates Bisexual Awareness Week occupying the days of September 16–23; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate advocates to mental health and wellness services on campus to create strategic resources that can assist out or closeted bisexual individuals with navigating the mental and physical health-based pressures that come with their identity; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for our campus partners and stakeholders to promote this week and showcase the importance of sexuality inclusivity across campus.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to UF President Dr. Benjamin Sasse, Senior Vice-President of Health Affairs Dr. David R. Nelson, UF GatorWell Director Dr. Monica Webb, UF Counseling and Wellness Center Director Dr. Ernesto Escoto, UF LGBTQ+ Presidential Advisory Committee Co-Chair Dr. Stephanie Bogart, UF LGBTQ+ Presidential Advisory Committee Co-Chair Dr. Berta Hernandez-Truyol, UF Center for Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement Interim Director Elle Collins, UF Center for Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement Associate Director Nathalie Turenne, UF Program Director for LGBTQ+ Student Engagement Jamir Wright, Pride Student Union President Jonathan C. Stephens, and UF Student Government LGBTQ+ Affairs Director Riley Towbin.

[1] - <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/article/understanding-bisexuality/>

[2] - https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/yrbs_data-summary-trends_report2023_508.pdf

[3] - <https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/NCHA-2022-GatorWell-Health-Promotion-Services.pdf>

[4] - <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/article/understanding-bisexuality/>

[5] - <https://lgbtq.multicultural.ufl.edu/about/history/>

[6] - <https://wefixbrains.com/resources/seven-issues-that-bisexual-people-face>

[7] - <https://www.hrc.org/resources/health-disparities-among-bisexual-people>