

## **STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1263**

**TITLE: Resolution Recognizing the Need to Secure Spaces on Campus Prone to Vandalism**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Monish Vijayaraghavan**

**SPONSORS: Senate President Oscar Santiago Perez, Judiciary Chair Jonathan C. Stephens, Judiciary Vice-Chair Joaquin R.C. Marcelino, Majority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton, Deputy Majority Party Leader Chalisa Budhai, Senator Saketh Damera, Senator Matthew Reich, Senator Laurie Wang, Senator John Lin**

**WHEREAS**, vandalism is a common issue in public spaces, including educational institutions, that can lead to significant monetary and social costs [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida has experienced incidents of vandalism that reflect hate and bias, affecting the well-being and safety of students, faculty, and staff [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, these incidents of vandalism may be targeting specific groups, fostering an environment of fear, distrust, and exclusion within the campus community [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is evidence that increased security measures can effectively reduce vandalism and related crimes [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, increased security may include enhanced surveillance, community programs, proper lighting, and effective reporting systems [5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the collaboration of all stakeholders, including administration, campus police, local authorities, and community members, is vital for implementing effective measures; and,

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of this resolution should be carried out in a timely manner to ensure the protection of the campus community; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of securing spaces on campus that are prone to hateful vandalism and the urgent need for appropriate measures to address this concern.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the adoption of comprehensive security measures, community engagement, and educational initiatives to prevent and respond to incidents of vandalism.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages everyone to act in accordance with the spirit of this resolution, promoting a safe, respectful, and inclusive campus environment.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Interim Provost J. Scott Angle, Vice President for Student Life Dr. Heather White, UFPD Chief Linda J. Stump-Kurnick, and Student Body President Olivia Green.*

[1] <https://networkofcare.org/library/Rural%20Crime%20Prevention%204.pdf>

[2] <https://www.wuft.org/news/2022/11/17/national-pan-hellenic-council-garden-faces-third-vandalism-instance/>

[3] <https://news.ufl.edu/2022/11/ufpd-arrests-man-who-vandalized-institute-sign/>

[4] <https://getsafeandsound.com/2021/10/why-should-there-be-more-security-in-schools/>

[5] <https://salisbury.md/departments/police/community-connection/vandalism-prevention>