

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1274

TITLE: Resolution Advocating the Need to Provide Multiple Language Options for UF Services

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, The University of Florida (UF) is a diverse institution with students, faculty, and staff from various cultural and linguistic backgrounds; and,

WHEREAS, as of 2022, 50.2 percent of UF students were of various cultural backgrounds other than solely of a white background [1] ; and,

WHEREAS, Language diversity is a cornerstone of an inclusive and accessible campus environment, ensuring that all members of the UF community can fully participate in university services; and,

WHEREAS, Essential university services such as Docutraq, the Counseling and Wellness Center (CWC) website, and ONE.UF are integral to the academic and administrative experiences of students, faculty, and staff; and,

WHEREAS, Providing multiple language options for these services will enhance accessibility and usability for individuals whose primary language is not English, fostering a more inclusive and supportive campus environment; and,

WHEREAS, The inclusion of diverse language options aligns with UF's commitment to promoting cultural diversity, equity, and inclusivity across all aspects of university life; and,

WHEREAS, Timely implementation of multiple language options is crucial to ensuring that the university's services are accessible to all, irrespective of their linguistic backgrounds; and,

WHEREAS, Ensuring accurate translation and culturally sensitive communication is essential to effectively serve UF's diverse community;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the necessity of providing multiple language options for essential university services, including Docutraq, the CWC website, and ONE.UF.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the university administration and relevant departments to collaborate with language experts and technology specialists to implement accurate and culturally sensitive translations for UF services.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate commits to supporting and advocating for the prompt implementation of multiple language options, ensuring that all members of the UF community have equitable access to university services.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the University of Florida President Dr. Benjamin Sasse, the UF Computing Help Desk Associate Director Matt Howell, and the University of Florida Bursar Interim Senior Associate Controller Nathan Williams and Assistant VP Olga Weider.

[1] <https://ir.aa.ufl.edu/facts/diversity/>