

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1123

TITLE: Resolution Requesting On Campus Dietary Accommodations for Religious Holidays

AUTHOR(S): Senator Caroline Kelley, Senator Annabella Vigna, Senator Monish Vijayaraghavan

SPONSOR(S): Senator Isa Penin, Senator Saketh Damera, Senator Megan Mcguire, Senator Julia Seifer, Senator Maya Idiculla, Senator Watson Hewitt, Senator Jonathan Bedine, Senator Samantha Kinggard, Senator Gabriela Prieto, Senator Aleah Henley, Senator Owen Lekebusch, Senator Aaron Amster, Senator Christian Jubran

WHEREAS, the University of Florida currently maintains “two on-campus Dining Halls – Fresh Food Company at Broward Dining Center (next to Broward Residential Area) and Gator Corner Dining Center (next to Tolbert Residential Area). These two locations offer all you care to eat options. Guests can also select from over 40 other locations to eat at on campus.” [1]; and

WHEREAS, At the University of Florida, “Meal Swipes grant access to Food Hall at Gator Corner, the Eatery at Broward Hall, and the Racquet Club Dining Center.” [2]

WHEREAS, “Meal Plans are an exciting way to meet new friends and build community. Florida Fresh Dining offers **diverse** selections and **convenient** options for Gators living on and off campus... Meal plan members are invited to exclusive dining events throughout the year.” [3]; and

WHEREAS, Interfaith America stresses the importance of providing religious accommodations and policies on-campus, presenting examples such as Boston University. “Boston University’s dining services summarizes the kosher and halal food options on campus, and also highlights that Shabbat meals are available on Fridays and Saturdays and that holiday meals are open to all. Accessed through the main BU dining website, this information makes all students, no matter their religious background, aware of these religious accommodations.” [4]; and

WHEREAS, “Pennsylvania State University highlights the kosher station within its dining facilities, provides a process for obtaining a kosher microwave and refrigerator, and provides information about how it labels its halal food options within the main dining options.” [4]; and

WHEREAS, The University of Florida is an institution that strives for inclusivity; and, takes active efforts to create an environment that respects and celebrates the cultural and religious diversity of its student body; and,

WHEREAS, students from different religious backgrounds may observe religious holidays that require fasting or dietary restrictions; and,

WHEREAS, dietary requirements can make it challenging for students to find adequate dining options on the University of Florida campus; and,

WHEREAS, ensuring that students have access to suitable dining options on campus is an essential aspect for promoting cultural and religious inclusivity; and,

WHEREAS, Many religious holidays are observed annually, making it crucial to establish a sustainable and ongoing system for providing appropriate food choices during these times; and,

WHEREAS, “At the University of Florida, students and faculty work together to allow students the opportunity to observe the holy days of their faith.”[5]; then

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes a need in providing access to suitable dining options for students on campus, in its strive for inclusivity.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the Florida Fresh Dining facilities to provide adequate options to students observing religious holidays, in which require dietary and dining accommodations.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of creating an environment that respects and celebrates the cultural and religious diversity of the student body.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, Provost Joe Glover, Student Body President Olivia Green, University of Florida Florida Fresh Dining, UF Business Services, University of Florida Florida Fresh Dining Meal Plan Office, Florida Fresh Dining Registered Dietitian Nutritionist: Sydney Watkins

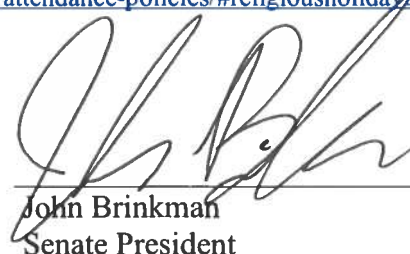
[1] <https://conferenceservices.housing.ufl.edu/lodging/dining/#:~:text=Dining%20Options,you%20care%20to%20eat%20options.>

[2] <https://dineoncampus.com/UF/meal-plan-options>

[3] <https://businessservices.ufl.edu/services/dining/>

[4] <https://www.interfaithamerica.org/resources/religious-policies/>

[5] <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#religiousholidaystext>


John Brinkman
Senate President

2/16/2024
Date