

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1170**

**TITLE: A Resolution Requesting for the Addition of a Reservable Music Room in the Reitz Union**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Hunter Monson**

**SPONSOR(S):**

**WHEREAS**, the city of Gainesville & the University of Florida have collectively created a distinct culture of music development & cultivation in the form of various genres; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Reitz Union is home to 19 reservable meeting rooms, two reservable dance studios, & the Arts & Crafts Center [1][2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in order to reserve any of those rooms, it must be done by any student group approved through the Office of Student Activities & Involvement (SAI) & any such student groups “are fiscally responsible for any damages or unscheduled maintenance caused by the use of reserved rooms” [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, preventing damages to any rooms &/or equipment is one of the primary reasons as to why SAI-approved student groups are the only ones allowed to make reservations, & a similar system is used by RecSports where it is outlined that any “damage to the facility &/or equipment will result in the cost of repairs &/or replacement charged to the member or group reserving the facilities” & additionally stating that “a charge will be assessed to the member or group reserving the facilities &/or equipment, if not cleaned & returned to its pre-event condition & location” [3][4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, ensuring that the quality &/or state of any reserved room/equipment will be maintained is of the utmost priority; thus, a similar policy shall be applied with the creation of a reservable music room within the Reitz Union & any other necessary equipment that shall be available to rent; and,

**WHEREAS**, home to Tom Petty as well as Don Felder, household musical legends have been birthed in the city of Gainesville, & the University of Florida is at the core of such music

cultivation, which prompts the need for a space of musical practice & expression for all UF students in addition to those currently studying within the university's music program [5][6]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the feasibility of such a project is fairly plausible as student groups who reserve the room shall be expected to bring their own major equipment (i.e. drums, guitars, bass, etc.) where the only necessary costs expected from the University of Florida & Reitz Union are those of a guitar amplifier (\$109.99), soundproof panels (\$39.99 per 52 panels), microphone (\$99), & drum rack (\$79.99) that shall be rentable by any SAI-approved student group [3][7][8][9][10]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, the UF School of Music within the UF College of the Arts introduced 11 state-of-the-art practice rooms that were to be used for rehearsal; however, those wishing to use them must either have the support & approval of the UF School of Music or be studying within the college [11]; and,

**WHEREAS**, with an additional \$35 million allocation from the State of Florida to improve the School of Music & University of Florida President Ben Sasse's desire for increased expansion within the College of the Arts, promoting further musical enrichment for students outside the college is integral to furthering the prestige of the university [11][12]; and,

**WHEREAS**, multiple studies regarding musical expression have found that "music engagement not only shapes our personal & cultural identities but also plays a role in mood regulation" as well as being a significant source for being a platform for marginalized voices, a tool for social advocacy & change, & a way to show support for prominent issues in one's community [13][14][15]; and,

**WHEREAS**, a 2022 study analyzing the immense benefits of musical expression in regard to mental health & overall wellbeing found that music therapy not only improves symptoms of depression, but it also "shows efficacy in decreasing anxiety levels & improving functioning of depressed individuals" & "underlines the promise of music in supporting mental health" [16][17]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the importance of designated music spaces cannot be undermined & oversimplified due to the fact that when places for such expression have been created with that specific purpose in mind, the development of skills, stress relief, & creative opportunities will only be amplified [18]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges the musical prestige that the city of Gainesville & University of Florida have developed in the past & should further nurture; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate understands the immense benefits of publicly accessible spaces for music expression; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes how the availability to perform music is a prominent combatant to symptoms of depression & anxiety; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate supports future initiatives that promote the aid of mental wellbeing & artistic expression; and,

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for the addition of a reservable music space & any necessary equipment in the Reitz Union.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Ben Sasse, University of Florida Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Provost, & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs J. Scott Angle, Vice President for Student Life Heather White, College of the Arts Dean Onye Ozuzu, College of the Arts Interim Dean Jennifer Setlow, Director of Music Admissions and Undergraduate Student Services for the School of Music Mutlu G Citim-Kepic, University of Florida Student Body President Olivia Green, University of Florida Student Body Treasurer Nyla Pierre, University of Florida Planning, Design, & Construction Assistant Vice President Cydney McGlothlin, University of Florida Planning, Design, & Construction Executive Director Carlos Dougnac, University of Florida Planning, Design, & Construction Contracts Administrators Dan Walker, Mercedes Bongiovanni, Edgar J. Morales-Meléndez, Aaron Henry, & Brandon Schlatterer, University of Florida Work Management Operations Manager Mary O'Loughlin-Cox, Building Service Assistant Director David Garzon, Senior Director of Operations Gregg Clarke, Senior Director of the Reitz Union Dwayne Isaacs, & Reitz Union Director of Programs & Services David C. Lucier.*

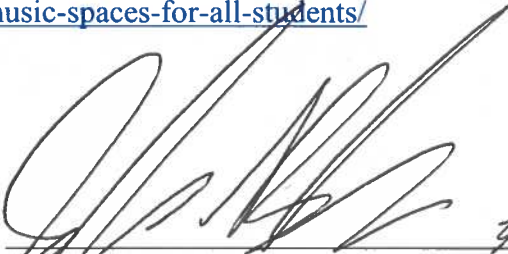
[1] <https://union.ufl.edu/thingstodo/acc-fall/>

[2] <https://union.ufl.edu/event-services/our-spaces/>

[3] <https://registrar.ufl.edu/services/room-scheduling-events>

[4] <https://recsports.ufl.edu/about/policies/reservations-rental-policies/>

- [5] <https://www.alligator.org/article/2022/07/what-a-time-to-be-alive-gainesvilles-robust-music-scene>
- [6] <https://guidetogreatergainesville.com/music-scene-in-greater-gainesville/>
- [7] [Amazon.com: Fender Frontman 10G Guitar Combo Amplifier - Black Bundle with Instrument Cable and Picks](#)
- [8] [Amazon.com: 52 Pack Acoustic Panels 1 X 12 X 12 Inches - Acoustic Foam - High Density-Soundproof Studio Wedges - Charcoal : audiosoul: Musical Instruments](#)
- [9] [Amazon.com: Shure SM57 Dynamic Instrument Microphone](#)
- [10] [Alesis Surge/Command Special Edition Electronic Drum Rack and Silverline Audio Drum Key Bundle \[Compatible with most Alesis/Roland/Yamaha/Simmons/Ion Sets\]](#)
- [11] <https://arts.ufl.edu/in-the-loop/news/music-in-the-making-thanks-to-new-practice-rooms/>
- [12] <https://arts.ufl.edu/in-the-loop/news/college-of-the-arts-receives-uf-strategic-funding-awards-to-support-interdisciplinary-research-and-arts-impact/>
- [13] <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41398-021-01483-8>
- [14] <https://www.psychiatry.org/news-room/apa-blogs/power-of-music-in-mental-well-being#:~:text=Recent%20research%20suggests%20that%20music,a%20role%20in%20mood%20regulation.&text=A%202022%20review%20and%20meta,effect%20on%20stress%2Drelated%20outcomes.>
- [15] <http://animatingdemocracy.org/sites/default/files/Potts%20Trend%20Paper.pdf>
- [16] <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.649840>
- [17] <https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.cd004517.pub3>
- [18] <https://heartandart.ca/the-importance-of-music-spaces-for-all-students/>

  
John Brinkman  
Senate President

3/1/2024  
Date