

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1191

TITLE: Resolution Advocating for the Increased Reporting of Hazing Incidents at the University of Florida

AUTHOR(S): Minority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton

SPONSOR(S): Senator Raj Mia, Senator Simone Liang, Senator Antonio Hendricks, Senator Anghelo Gangano, Senator Meagan Lamey, Senator Allan Rivera-Jaramillo, Senator Sarah Hoffer, Senator Elizabeth Insuasti, Senator Arturo Zárrate, Senator Ana Alvarez, Senator Daniel Permane, Senator Asif Islam

WHEREAS, the University of Florida defines hazing as “Any action or series of actions that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a Student for any purpose, including but not limited to initiation into, admission into or affiliation with any Student group or organization;” within 4.040 § (4) (I) of the Regulations of the University of Florida Student Conduct Code [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida seeks to ensure “cooperation of all involved: potential new members, members and leaders of student organizations, advisors, coaches, faculty, staff, and parents;” in its mission to create a “hazing-free university” [1]; and,

WHEREAS, hazing events encompass activities ranging from physical harm to mental distress, humiliation, and ridicule, creating an environment that runs counter to the principles of a safe and inclusive university community [2]; and,

WHEREAS, hazing events often impact students psychologically, emotionally, and physically, including sleep deprivation, a lost sense of control, post-traumatic stress syndrome, and erosion of trust, leading to long-lasting negative consequences that hinder their overall well-being and academic performance [3]; and,

WHEREAS, studies reveal an overwhelming number of hazing events occur on college campuses, with as many as thirty-six percent of students participating in such events during their university experience [4]; and,

WHEREAS, the underreporting of hazing incidents is a widespread issues among universities across the United States, limiting the ability for each campus community to address the impacts of hazing at each respective campus [5]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida does not release up-to-date reports of information about hazing incidents, including but not limited to the overview of hazing incident data; and,

WHEREAS, other universities, including the University of Virginia [6] and the University of Michigan [7] are working to increase reporting on hazing incidents, setting a positive precedent for combatting the issue of hazing at each respective campus; now,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Government Senate identifies the need and benefit for the increased reporting of hazing incidents at the University of Florida.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Government Senate calls upon the University of Florida to enhance its reporting efforts of hazing incidents, adhering to the principles as outlined in the University of Florida Student Conduct Code.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Government Senate encourages the University of Florida to collaborate with student organizations, advisors, coaches, faculty, staff, and parents to foster a culture of awareness, accountability, and prevention regarding hazing incidents and their reporting.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Benjamin Sasse, University of Florida Student Body President Olivia Green, Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Director Pamela Malyk, Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Associate Director Aimee Peeples.

[1]<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/resources-by-audience/student-organizations/hazing/>

[2]<https://deanofstudents.umich.edu/article/what-hazing>

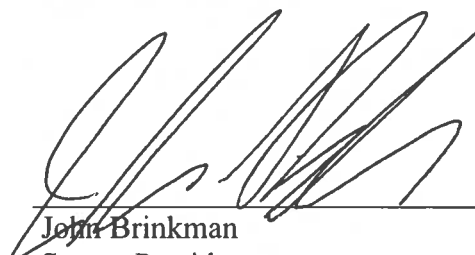
[3]<https://deanofstudents.umich.edu/article/consequences-hazing>

[4]<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15698981/>

[5]<https://www.wftv.com/news/local/9-investigates-finds-college-hazing-underreported-difficult-track/CLMUXKQWMNDJHBF7OCJXVP5ZXU/>

[6]<https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2024/02/ujc-looks-to-increase-transparency-on-hazing-cases-this-semester>

[7]<https://www.michigandaily.com/uncategorized/u-looks-reports-hazing/>



John Brinkman
Senate President

3/1/2024
Date