

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1193**

**TITLE: Resolution Acknowledging the Exclusionary Nature of a ‘Cash Free’ Campus**

**AUTHOR(S): Minority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton**

**SPONSOR(S): Senator Raj Mia**

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida, on September 5, 2023, officially transitioned payment options at all Florida Fresh Dining, Campus Bookstore, and the GATORONE Office to an exclusively digital system, with cash no longer accepted at each respective location [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, several prominent financial institutions, including the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, have released studies, including one from 2019, establishing that portions of populations, particularly those of lower income groups, may not have access to digital payment systems including bank accounts due to socioeconomic factors [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, additional research, including a study that specifically looks into the barriers those in lower socioeconomic communities from the Pew Research Center in 2020, showcased further that those groups lack adequate access to financial systems due to technological inequities [3]; and,

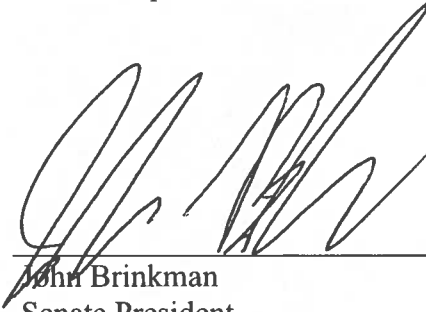
**WHEREAS**, predominantly, communities of color and those with disabilities are disadvantaged under cashless systems [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of the University of Florida Student Senate to advocate on behalf of all students to ensure inclusivity, representation, and equitability of access for all; and,

**WHEREAS**, this responsibility includes the need to ensure that all communities are granted greater access to financial transactions; now,

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate commits to promoting inclusivity and accessibility in campus policy and services and, in doing so, urges the University of Florida administration to explore alternative solutions that accommodate for all students who may rely on cash transactions as an equitable form of payment.

- [1] <https://businessservices.ufl.edu/2023/08/24/select-campus-locations-are-going-cashless-dining-bookstores-and-more/#:~:text=Beginning%20Sept.,Google%20Pay%2C%20and%20Samsung%20Pay>
- [2] <https://www.fdic.gov/householdsurvey/>
- [3] <https://www.pewresearch.org/>
- [4] <https://naacp.org/resources/cashless-retail-transactions-promotes-discrimination-our-communities>

  
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John Brinkman                      3/1/2024  
Senate President                      Date