

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1224

TITLE: Resolution Addressing the Need For Dance Spaces and Resources on Campus

AUTHOR(S): Deputy Minority Party Leader Anamika Naidu, Senator Isha Khan

SPONSOR(S): Sabor Latino Treasurer Micaela Chavez-Tafur, Danza Historian Kayla Johnson, Dancin' Gators President Jasmine Byrd, Gator Tufaan Captain Neha Bangalore, Gator Udaya Choreographer Arvin Saji, Dance In A Suitcase President Jordan Mendelsohn, Gator Garba Team Manager Sanjana Patel, Gator Bhangra Fundraising Chair Anvi Singh, Gator Adaa Captain Maya Bomma, GatoRaas Social Media Chair Zeba Rias, Pakistani Student Association Secretary Taimoor Nawaz, Bangladeshi Student Association President Elama Ali, Senator Hunter Monson, Senator Allan Rivera Jaramillo, Senator Noor Azeem, Senator Aditi Sarkar, Asian Kaleidoscope Month Pageant Director Brandon Nguyen, Assemble Ballet Company Show Director Emma Zuercher

WHEREAS, University of Florida has a rich dance culture that spans a variety of styles, cultures, and traditions; and,

WHEREAS, the dance facilities in the School of Theater and Dance (SoTD) accommodate roughly 200 SoTD students [1]; and,

WHEREAS, in order to access studio rentals, $\frac{2}{3}$ of a dance team's membership required to be enrolled in School of Theater and Dance class(es)]; and,

WHEREAS, there are over 30 active dance teams/organizations at this university [2]; and,

WHEREAS, there are a very limited amount of spaces available for individual students or student organizations to meet and practice in facilities like the Stephen O'Connell center and the Reitz Union; and,

WHEREAS, events that take place in the Stephen C. O'Connell (including but not limited to sporting events, career fairs, recurring events like *Humans v. Zombies*, etc.) often times result in the cancellations of student reservations of spaces in the O'Connell [3]; and,

WHEREAS, many dance teams resort to dancing in parking garages either during the day or late at night which presents safety hazards such as inadequate lighting, constant influx of cars,

lack of air conditioning; and,

WHEREAS, the concrete floors of a parking garage are especially dangerous due to the lack of shock absorption, which puts dancers at a higher risk of joint injuries, stress fractures, and other long-term injuries [4]; and,

WHEREAS, dancing outside presents a series of technical setbacks as well, including but not limited to the inability to perform floorwork, traditional styles that require dancers to be barefoot, lack of mirrors that aid in synchronicity, lack of a sound system for music; and,

WHEREAS, dance teams might experience mockery, verbal and physical harassment, or even violence when practicing outside, especially at night; and,

WHEREAS, in 2016, Gator Adaa members were practicing outdoors due to a lack of indoor dance space, and were harassed by two white men invalidating their culture [5]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the large number of active dance groups that exist on campus (outside of the official dance program) that actively enrich and better this university.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need to accommodate UF's rich dance culture by supplying an adequate amount of indoor dance spaces.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for the expansion and maintenance of dance facilities on campus that are open to students of ALL majors/minors, organizations, etc.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution sent to the Stephen C. O'Connell Center Director Lynda Reinhart, Associate Director Renee Musson, Director of Operations Jeremy Cynkar, Assistant Director of Events Richard Heniger, Director's Assistant Courtney Bellot, Senior Event Coordinator Hadley Owen, Senior Event Coordinator Thomas Soto, Senior Event Coordinator Melanie Boyd, J. Wayne Reitz Union Senior Director Dwayne Isaacs, Event Services Director Tara Siler, Event Services Assistant Director Lynne Palmer

[1]<https://arts.ufl.edu/academics/theatre-and-dance/about/overview/>

[2]<https://orgs.studentinvolvement.ufl.edu/Organizations#!#searchresults%2Fdance>

[3]<https://www.oconnellcenter.ufl.edu/stephen-c-oconnell-center-policy-manual/>

[4]<https://ausdance.org.au/articles/details/safe-dance-floors#:~:text=The%20floors%20that%20you%20dance,legs%2C%20but%20your%20entire%20body>

[5]<https://sparks-mag.com/2016/10/07/gator-adaa-harassed-dance-practice/>

