

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1435

TITLE: Resolution Reaffirming the Obligation of Student Government to Address Climate Change

AUTHOR(S): Senator Austin Britton

SPONSOR(S): Senator Isha Khan, Minority Party Leader Anamika Naidu, Pi Sigma Alpha External Affairs Director Lucas Nadeau, Graduate Senator Antonio Hendricks

WHEREAS, the ongoing alteration of global weather and climate patterns underscores the urgency of addressing climate change as a central issue of the twenty-first century [1]; and,

WHEREAS, The IPCC concluded that “*the scale of recent changes across the climate system as a whole – and the present state of many aspects of the climate system – are unprecedented over many centuries to many thousands of years*” [2]; and,

WHEREAS, according to current projections, “*global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades*” [2]; and,

WHEREAS, above global change, “*urban areas experience air temperatures that can be several degrees Celsius warmer than surrounding areas*” [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the IPCC additionally concluded that “*climate change is contributing to humanitarian crises where climate hazards interact with high vulnerability*” [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) early forecast for the coming hurricane season indicates an 85% chance of an above-normal season [3]; and,

WHEREAS, passage of student senate bills (SSBs) 2024-1183, 2024-1184, 2024-1185, 2024-1186, 2024-1187 and 2024-1370 indicate continued support for climate action among the campus population and within student government; and,

WHEREAS, there exists at the University of Florida numerous student organizations dedicated to climate action, conservation, and advocacy, such as Climate Active Gator, Green Building Club, Sunrise Movement Gainesville, Blue Solutions, Environmental Science Alliance, Gator SCUBA Club, Gainesville Environment Council, and Green Greeks Florida [4]; and,

WHEREAS, officials of the student body, it is the responsibility of the student government and the University of Florida Board of Trustees (UF-BOT) to support and enhance the work of these orgs; and,

WHEREAS, in recent years there is a lack of campus wide climate action stemming from the UF-BOT [5]; and,

WHEREAS, there exists a gap in student led endeavors and interests, and those of student government and the UF-BOT; and,

WHEREAS, as stipulated in Rule 10, Section 1(c) of the Rules and Procedures of the Student Senate, a power of the Senate President is to “*establish ad-hoc committees to hear business as established in their creation*”; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate supports understanding and addressing this gap in campus interests and action; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate is interested to work with student leadership and student organizations to understand campus support for climate action; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate supports the environmental goals of student organizations; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate supports the fulfillment of environmental goals of student organizations; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate supports the Senate President’s convening of the Ad-Hoc Sustainable Student Action Committee(SSAC), with Austin Britton as the Chair of the Committee; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED THAT the University of Florida Student Senate supports the following potential duties of the SSAC:

1. Examine and report as necessary or requested to the senate on the state of student led climate advocacy and action,
2. Examine and report as necessary or requested to the senate on recommended student government actions to support student led climate advocacy and action
3. Research and submit bills and resolutions regarding supporting climate advocacy and action
4. Coordinate communication with student leadership and environmental student organizations

A copy of this resolution will be sent to Student Body President John Brinkman.

[1]<https://science.nasa.gov/climate-change/effects/>

[2]https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf

[3] <https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/noaa-predicts-above-normal-2024-atlantic-hurricane-season>

[4] <https://orgs.studentinvolvement.ufl.edu/Organizations>

[5] <https://sustainable.ufl.edu/campus-initiatives/uf-climate-action/planning-process/>



7/16/24

Monish Vijayaraghavan
Senate President

Date