

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1559

TITLE: Resolution Calling Upon the University of Florida to Issue an Honorary Degree for Tenders the Cat

AUTHOR(S): Senator Nathaniel Pelton

SPONSOR(S): Senator Aleah Henley, Senator Jaxen Ranson, Senator Noor Golesorkhi, Senator Daniel Weinberger, Judiciary Chairman Aaron Rubaii, Senator Meagan Lamey, Minority Party Leader Anamika Naidu, Senator Maximo Toledo, Senator Fahim Islam, Senator Kayla Goldstein

WHEREAS, Tenders the cat has been a beloved fixture on the University of Florida campus for generations of Gators, with the Instagram page ‘gatorcats’ serving as the official University of Florida Tenders fan account, and having over 4,500 followers [1]; and

WHEREAS, Tenders has been identified by her circular markings and unique fur patterns by her caretaker as a tabby, a type of cat characterized by their adventurous, independent, friendly, and outgoing nature [1][2]; and,

WHEREAS, it is believed that Tenders has been spotted on campus at the University of Florida since at least 2018, with her caretaker believing Tenders is roughly six years old [1]; and,

WHEREAS, Tender's name was confirmed as early as 2019, when a caretaker, Rachel, reported Tender’s whereabouts in the Tolbert area, reported on her pregnancy, and her surgery procedure for spaying and neutering [3]. It is believed at this time Tenders was named for her love for chicken tenders, although some students around this time called her ‘Boots’ due to her white paws [1]; and,

WHEREAS, Tenders is reported to weigh roughly nine pounds, enjoys being petted by passing students, and has a love for Temptations cat treats [1]; and,

WHEREAS, in 2022, the University of Florida Fresh Dining used Tender’s brand for t-shirts, magnets, and tote bags used by the university to advertise their meal plans and gift to students entering the university [1]; and,

WHEREAS, Vermont State University Castleton awarded Max, a 6-year-old tabby, a Doctor of Litter-ature degree in 2024, with the intention of celebrating the support that Max offered to

students during a difficult time for the university, despite the degree being honorary seen as a lighthearted and “kind of a joke” [4]; and,

WHEREAS, Tenders has brought joy to countless students, faculty, and staff with her friendly and affectionate demeanor and serves as a sense of pride to many; now,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Senate calls upon the University of Florida to issue an honorary degree to Tenders the cat in recognition of her outstanding contributions to and achievements for the University of Florida community; and

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida Interim President Kent Fuchs, and University of Florida Registrar Casey Bullock.

[1]<https://www.instagram.com/gatorcats>

[2]<https://www.thesprucepets.com/all-about-tabby-cats-552489>

[3]https://www.reddit.com/r/ufl/comments/esnts6/update_on_tenders_the_cat/

[4]<https://www.cnn.com/2024/06/11/us/vermont-cat-max-graduate-degree/index.html>



9/6/24

Monish Vijayaraghavan
Senate President

Date