

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1691

TITLE: Resolution Thanking the Provost for Restoring 24/5 Marston

AUTHOR(S): Majority Party Leader Julia Seifer

SPONSOR(S) : Student Body President John Brinkman, Student Body Vice President Laura Thomas, Student Body Treasurer Saketh Damera, Information and Communications Chairwoman Laurel Wentworth, Senate President Vijayaraghavan, Senate President Pro-Tempore Cox, Rules and Ethics Chairwoman Samantha Kinggard, Judiciary Chairman Aaron Rubaii, Budget and Appropriations Chairman Rodriguez, Senator Burton, Senator Patel, Senator Bennett, Senator Sabadash, Senator Collins, Senator Majethia, Senator Bazen, Senator Krutchik, Senator Koile, Senator Rodriguez, Senator Falasiri, Senator Levitt, Senator Urbenz, Senator Furman, Senator Felix, Senator Ranson, Senator Prieto, Senator Idiculla, Senator Schoeberlein, Senator Thellab, Senator Vigna, Senator Toledo, Senator Bryan, Senator Golesorkhi, Senator Jubran, Senator McGuire, Senator Favors, Senator Gaul, Senator Gigliotti, Senator Aleah Henley

WHEREAS, Forbes recently ranked the University of Florida the #4 public university in the United States for its rigorous curriculum, high earning potential, and relatively low student debt, alongside other factors [1]; and,

WHEREAS, many students frequent libraries across campus, especially the Marston Science Library, which is the most centralized library to campus life and “is the home of the library collections and course reserves related to agriculture, life sciences, engineering, mathematics, chemical sciences, and physical sciences.” Marston also offers tech and tools to students free of charge [2]; and,

WHEREAS, “with over two million visitors each year, Marston is the most visited library on campus” [2]; and,

WHEREAS, as of Fall 2021, after many students returned to campus following the COVID-19 pandemic, Newell Hall was the designated study space on campus that was open for 24 hours, 7 days per week [3]; and,

WHEREAS, after students voiced their concerns and Student Government worked with university administration, the Marston Science Library, which is significantly larger than Newell, replaced Newell Hall as the 24-hour study space in a pilot program. This pilot program would last for 1 school year period to gauge future funding, based on usage data collected during its overnight hours [3]; and,

WHEREAS, Provost Emeritus Joe Glover committed to funding “overnight access at the library to collect data on student usage to help inform future funding decisions” [4]; and,

WHEREAS, over the past year, the Marston Science Library has voiced concerns over funding, staffing, and general library resources amidst the 24/7 schedule, reporting that usage data during late nighttime hours, especially on slower days of the week, is not conducive to keeping Marston open for 24 hours, 7 days per week; and,

WHEREAS, beginning on August 22, Marston reduced its hours of operation from 24/7 to 8am-1pm on Mondays–Thursdays, 8am-10pm on Fridays, 9am-8pm on Saturdays, and 10am-1am on Sundays [5]; and,

WHEREAS, after several meetings with the current Student Government Executive leadership, current Provost J. Scott Angle agreed to continue funding 24-hour Marston for 5 days per week (Sunday–Thursday), although a shorter operating window was more conducive to Marston’s resources according to the usage data [6]; and,

WHEREAS, 24/5 Marston will be starting Monday, September 9 and continuing through the fall and spring semesters until May 2, 2025 [6]; and,

WHEREAS, UF Provost Scott Angle said “we understand that students often have trouble finding a safe and quiet place to study late at night, whether because of work, family, or just having to get away from loud roommates.... We hope that 24-hour access to the library will help those students, as well as the night owls who do their best work when the rest of us are asleep” [6]; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate appreciates the efforts of the Student Government Executive leadership and UF Provost Scott Angle in maintaining a 24-hour Marston Science Library.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes UF Provost Scott Angle for his unwavering commitment to students and enhancing their academic experiences.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida Provost J. Scott Angle.

[1] <https://news.ufl.edu/2024/08/forbes/>

[2] <https://ufl.pb.unizin.org/ulaguide/chapter/marston/>

[3] https://www.alligator.org/article/2023/03/marston-24-hours-first-week?ct=content_open&cv=cbox_latest

[4] <https://www.alligator.org/article/2023/01/marston-library-24-hours>

[5] <https://marston.uflib.ufl.edu/about/hours/>

[6] <https://news.ufl.edu/2024/08/library-hours/>



9/15/24

Monish Vijayaraghavan
Senate President

Date