

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1579

TITLE: Campus Beautification Act Volume One — Resolution Calling for a Student Government Campus Beautification Day

AUTHOR(S): Senator Nathaniel Pelton

SPONSOR(S):

WHEREAS, the campus landscape plays an important role in shaping the student experience and we-being, with a beautified campus leaving strong first impressions, sense of belong and identity, enhanced quality of life, bolstered academic performance and learning experience, community engagement and social connections, and further stewardship, [1]; and,

WHEREAS, studies into green spaces across college campuses and in urban spaces “showed that visiting green space was associated with greater mental well-being and marginally lower odds of using anxiety/depression medication use indirectly, mediated via both relationship and community satisfaction.” [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the David and Wanda Brown Center for Leadership and Service hosts a Campus Beautification program, begun in 2017 in response to the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. The program seeks to engage with students, offering one hour long service events throughout the year to help beautify the University of Florida campus, showcasing broader support for campus beautification at UF [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the appearance of the campus and accessibility to green spaces reflects the values and priorities of the university community, including the University of Florida’s Core Value of Excellence, to “strive for greatness as an institution that brings out the best in each individual.” [4]; and

WHEREAS, universities across the United States, including at the University of North Carolina Charlotte, and American University participate in campus beautification events, with a focus on sustainability. Kaleigh Missimer, an American University Field Hockey team member and participant in the American University Campus Beautification Day from April 9-10, 2024 stated “As an environmental science major, I have studied the incredible impact that a connection with nature can have on mental, physical, and spiritual health. I love the idea that on this day we can make a positive impact on the people that we are surrounded by in school, even if it is with a simple change [;]” thus reaffirming the widespread benefits of hosting such an event for student bodies [5] [6]; and,

WHEREAS, a campus-wide beautification day would provide an opportunity for the university community to come together and show their pride in their university while serving to create an improved environment for Gators to come; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate advocates for the establishment of an annual University of Florida Campus Beautification Day, to be hosted by Student Government in collaboration with various community stakeholders.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate strongly encourages all students of the University of Florida to participate in future campus beautification programming, both sponsored by UF Student Government and other Departments of the University of Florida.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida Interim President Kent Fuchs, Student Body President John Brinkman, Student Body Vice President Laura Thomas, UF Office of Sustainability Director Matthew Williams, and Gators Going Green Agency Head Addison Woodley.

- [1]<https://www.brightview.com/resources/article/6-ways-campus-landscape-plays-role-student-experience>
[2]<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0013935123011283?via%3Dihub>
[3]<https://leadershipandservice.ufl.edu/campusbeautification/>
[4]<https://www.ufl.edu/about/core-values/>
[5]<https://inside.charlotte.edu/niner-insider/2024-04-12/campus-beautification-day/>
[6]<https://aucagles.com/news/2024/4/10/athletics-takes-pride-in-aus-campus-beautification-day.aspx>



Monish Vijayaraghavan
Senate President

10/2/24

Date