

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1746

TITLE: Resolution Re-affirming UF's Commitment to Title IX Compliance

AUTHOR(S): Minority Party Leader Max Banach, Senator Lucas Nadeau

SPONSORS: Senator Austin Britton, Senator Sophia Kolcun, Senator Priya Scramm, Deputy Minority Party Leader Victoria Peters, Senator Antonio Hendricks

WHEREAS, the University of Florida (UF) is committed to providing a safe, welcoming community for all students, as stated in its core values [1]; and,

WHEREAS, UF remains committed to fostering an inclusive environment for all students [1]; and,

WHEREAS, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 mandates that all educational institutions receiving federal funds actively work to prevent discrimination, harassment, and assault on the basis of sex, which includes gender identity and sexual orientation [2]; and,

WHEREAS, UF's Title IX office is tasked with enforcing policies that address all forms of sexual misconduct and ensures that "violations of this regulation by faculty will result in disciplinary action up through dismissal" [2]; and,

WHEREAS, Title IX was enacted "to ensure all girls and women would have equal access and every opportunity to thrive" [3]; and,

WHEREAS, UF is committed to maintaining the highest standards in hiring practices and background checks to ensure that all staff reflect the university's values and commitment to inclusivity [1][4]; and,

WHEREAS, data suggests that education surrounding Title IX regulations benefits for students and college personnel at academic institutions [5]; and,

WHEREAS, a supportive and well-monitored environment is essential for students, student-athletes, athletic staff alike to feel safe, respected, and protected on campus; and,

WHEREAS, continued Title IX training can help teach staff to "learn warning signs for various types of abusive behaviors and definitions . . . [and] knowing how to recognize those behaviors can help staff understand what they should report and how to handle a range of scenarios" [6]; and,

WHEREAS, the Counseling and Wellness Center provides resources to students in need of mental health support; and,

WHEREAS, Title IX violations "will not be tolerated at the University [of Florida] and any individual who engages in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action" [2]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the UF Student Senate reaffirms its commitment to supporting UF's Title IX policies and initiatives that ensure the safety, inclusivity, and dignity of all students and staff.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that UF Student Senate supports Title IX compliance within all University units to reinforce a culture of safety and inclusivity.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that UF Student Senate supports increased transparency through the continued posting of all Title IX compliance policies and protocols on the UF website and the listing of new initiatives to foster a safe environment.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that UF Student Senate encourages the continued allocation of resources toward mental health support through the Counseling and Wellness Center for students potentially affected by instances of misconduct.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that UF Student Senate urges collaboration between the Title IX office and all other University units to offer training and resources that help students understand their rights and reporting options under Title IX.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that UF Student Senate recommends the development of a Title IX awareness campaign across campus to ensure all students know the resources available to them.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Student Body President John Brinkman, Vice President for Student Life Dr. Heather White, Executive Director of Counseling & Wellness Center Dr. Ernesto Escoto, Interim Title IX Coordinator Jackie W. Moran.

[1] - <https://www.ufl.edu/about/core-values/#e1-877a98b1>

[2] - <https://titleix.ufl.edu/about/laws-policies/>

[3] - <https://www.womenssportsfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Title-IX-at-50-Report-FINALC-v2-.pdf>

[4] - <https://policy.ufl.edu/policy/criminal-background-screening/>

[5] - Edwards, Katie M et al. "The Kids Are Alright (Mostly): An Empirical Examination of Title IX Knowledge in Institutions of Higher Education." *Psychology of violence* 9.4 (2019): 431–441. Web.

[6] - <https://3rdmil.com/5-reasons-why-training-staff-for-title-ix-matters/>