



Student Senate

3000 J. Wayne Reitz Union
PO Box 118505
Gainesville, FL 32611
352-392-1665

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1035

TITLE: The ROOTS Agency Establishment Act

AUTHOR(S): Student Body Vice President Laura Thomas, Student Body President John Brinkman

SPONSORS: Pride Student Union President Jonathan Stephens, Hispanic-Latine Student Association President Matthew Urrea, Black Student Union President Micah Bowen, Asian American Student Union Co-President Serina Kaochari, Asian American Student Union Co-President Daniel Xia, Hispanic-Latine Student Association Vice-President of Operations Gabriella Garibaldi, Hispanic-Latine Student Association Vice-President of Programming Lucia Urdaneta, Hispanic-Latine Student Association Vice-President of Communications Amber Haydar, Hispanic-Latine Student Association Treasurer Gabriella Croasdaile, Hispanic-Latine Student Association Secretary Sofia Lynch, Hispanic-Latine Student Association Member Leadership Program Fall Executive Director Maite Chapartegui, Hispanic-Latine Student Association Member Leadership Program Spring Executive Director Michelle Hudtwalcker, Hispanic-Latine Student Association Office of Political Affairs Executive Director Imani Sanchez, Black Student Union Internal Vice-President Alexis Cooley, Black Student Union Treasurer Dorine Thybulle, Black Student Union Secretary Selora Langston, Asian American Student Union Internal Vice-President Jenny Xue, Asian American Student Union Treasurer Zachary Tenn Yuk, Senate President Pro-Tempore Julia Seifer, Student Body Treasurer Saketh Damera, CASA Vice-President of Culture Katie Chen, CASA Vice-President of Internal Affairs Sandy Zheng, CASA President Kiana Krutchaiyan, CASA Vice-President of Finance Deborah Woo, EMPRESS Interest Group President Bipasha Shrestha, Filipino Student Association Executive President Rafael Sunga, Filipino Student Association Co-Vice President of Membership Sara Escobar, Filipino Student Association Vice-President of Mass Communications Ceyan Ang, First-Year Leadership Program Director Sophia Sun, Generational Relief in Prosthetics President Ella Khaw, HEAL Secretary Vinod Rajan, HEAL President Vrithi Takkalapalli, HEAL Co-President Amy Naing, HEAL External Vice President Aaron Tran, Material Advantage Vice-President Aris Marie Graber, Material Advantage President Morgan Congdon, Science Olympiad Executive Board (Gator Science Olympiad) Co-President Amitha Karuppiah, Society of Women Engineers Corresponding Secretary Caroline Deacon, Society of Women Engineers President

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Adriana LaVopa, SPARKS President Justin Fernandez, SPARKS Magazine Managing
Editor Sabrina LaVopa, SPARKS Magazine Financial Director Aize Hassan, Theta Nu Xi
Multicultural Sorority Inc. President Sofia Areas Mayorga, Society of Women Engineers
Treasurer Zoë Szczesniak, Vietnamese Student Organization President Allie Sigl,
Vietnamese Student Organization Co-President Ali Quach, Senate President Blake Cox,
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Sharon Sanju, Senator Dylan Cannella, Senator Alexa Trower, Senator Ella Furman,
Senator Sophia Kolcun, Senator Marquis Viel, Senator Arshan Falasiri, and Senator
Antonio Hendricks.**

CHAPTER 238 ROOTS

- 238.1** **ROOTS shall be an agency of Student Government whose purpose is to serve and unite the University of Florida's cohorts of multicultural organizations through the re-establishment of the historic transition programs. ROOTS shall serve to highlight multicultural identities for all University of Florida students to learn and experience from.**
- 238.11** **ROOTS shall ensure that each area, as defined in 238.3, S.B.S., shall operate to reflect the cultural and historical significance of each community, outlining the core values, traditions, and mission of the program to be presented in a public media format.**
- 238.12** **ROOTS, as an agency of Student Government, shall operate under the authority of the Student Body President who shall be empowered to remove from position those individuals guilty of malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance.**
- 238.13** **A member of ROOTS may also be removed by following the procedures as outlined per Chapter 306 and 307, S.B.S.**
- 238.14** **If ROOTS fails to meet its responsibilities as outlined in these codes, or acts in a manner contrary to the principles and goals of the Student Government, its status as an agency may be revoked by a majority vote of the Student Senate, upon the recommendation of the Student Body President.**

- 238.2 There shall be a ROOTS Agency Head(s) who shall be responsible for overseeing implementation of all responsibilities, policies, and services of the ROOTS Agency. They shall be appointed by the Student Body President and shall assume office upon majority confirmation by the members of the Student Senate present and voting.
- 238.21 The Agency Head(s) shall serve as a liaison between the University of Florida administration, the Student Government Diversity and Programming Committee, and the UF Student Engagement Office. The Agency Head(s) shall serve in a strictly oversight role.
- 238.22 It is recommended that ROOTS Agency Head(s) have served in a previous capacity in either these programs or within the historic Transition Programs of the former Center for Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement ("C.I.M.E.")
- 238.23 The Agency Head(s) shall make an oral report to the Student Senate at least once per semester regarding its efforts.
- 238.24 The Agency Head(s) must be a student (as defined under UF rules and regulations) during the time of the ROOTS programming, with their term serving from the first day of classes of the spring academic semester to the last day of classes of the fall academic semester of the same calendar year.
- 238.25 Should an Agency Head resign or be removed from office, a successor shall be appointed through the same procedure used to make the original appointment.
- 238.26 Any replacement Agency Head shall serve only until the last day of classes in the Fall semester at 8am ET, unless reappointed pursuant to this chapter.
- 238.3 There shall be the following areas under the ROOTS Agency:
1. The Black-Interest Transition Program (also known as Pledging to Advance Academic Capacities Together, or PAACT)
 2. The Hispanic-Latine Interest Transition Program (also known as ¡ADELANTE!)
 3. The Asian Pacific Islander Desi-Interest Transition Program (also known as Forming Our Identities Through Networking and Development, or FiND)
 4. The LGBTQ-Interest Transition Program (also known as HORIZONS)
- 238.31 There shall be a Black-Interest ROOTS Executive Vice-Chair(s), the Hispanic-

Latine Interest ROOTS Executive Vice-Chair(s), the Asian Pacific Islander Desi-Interest ROOTS Executive Vice-Chair(s), and the LGBTQ-Interest ROOTS Executive Vice-Chair(s). This will be done with the help of the Screening Committee Conference.

238.311 Executive Vice-Chairs shall work to uphold these traditions and values to ensure continuity and alignment with the program's original purpose as outlined in Section 238.1, S.B.S.

238.312 The Screening Committee Conference shall oversee the review and recommendation of Executive Vice-Chairs as defined by their internal procedures, to be submitted to the Student Body President.

238.313 The Screening Committee Conference's Membership shall contain:

- 1) Agency Head(s) of ROOTS, serving as Chair of the Screening Committee Conference.
- 2) An authority of the Division of Student Life serving as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Committee.
- 3) Any additional members to serve in an ex-officio, non-voting capacities as needed and appointed by the Agency Head of ROOTS
- 4) A single President, or one designee from the President, of the following organizations:
 - a. The Asian American Student Union.
 - b. The Black Student Union.
 - c. The Hispanic-Latine Student Association.
 - d. The Pride Student Union.

238.314 Each organization shall have equal voting power, with each organization controlling one (1) vote, and recommendations shall be decided by a majority vote in affirmation of those present and voting. The Chair shall only vote in circumstances wherein their vote shall affect the result, and shall control only one (1) vote irrespective of the number of Agency Heads of ROOTS holding the office concurrently.

238.315 Quorum for the purposes of conducting business shall be defined as a majority of the entire eligible voting membership of the Screening Committee Conference, although a smaller number shall be allowed to adjourn or call on the attendance of absent members.

238.316 Any and all meetings of the Screening Committee Conference wherein business shall be conducted are required to be publicly noticed no less than forty-

eight (48) hours prior to the noticed time and place of meeting.


- 238.317 Following review of all applicants for all roles as defined in 238.3, S.B.S., the Screening Committee shall levy to the Student Body President no more than three (3) nominations for each vacant role.
- 238.318 The Student Body President shall review all applications and shall choose an individual for the Executive Vice Chair position and for each vacancy to move forward to the Student Senate for approval by a majority vote of those present and voting in the Student Senate.
- 238.32 All Executive Vice-Chairs outlined in 238.3, S.B.S. shall develop the leadership and/or organizational structure of their respective Transition Programs, subject to review by the Agency Head(s) and approval by the Student Body President.
- 238.33 The remainder of the organizational structure excluding the 238.31, S.B.S. shall be left up to the Agency Head(s), subject to approval by the Student Body President.
- 238.34 The Agency Head(s) shall ensure that each Transition program conducts their official programming for all student participants of the ROOTS programming, which is open to all students.
- 238.341 All programming shall be crafted at the oversight of the Executive Vice-Chair.
- 238.342 The programming shall commence during the months of August and September, coinciding with the official return of students back to the Fall academic term.
- 238.343 No programming shall last more than three (3) consecutive days.
- 238.4 The University of Florida Student Government shall allow the Asian American Student Union, the Black Student Union, the Hispanic-Latine Student Association, and the Pride Student Union as advisors to provide input on ROOTS's programming, specifically:
1. The Asian Pacific Islander Desi-Interest ROOTS may consult with the Asian American Student Union;
 2. The Black-Interest ROOTS may consult with the Black Student Union;
 3. The Hispanic-Latine-Interest ROOTS may consult with the Hispanic-Latine Student Association; and
 4. The LGBTQ-Interest ROOTS may consult with the Pride Student Union.

238.5 During the month of January each year while classes are in session, the four aforementioned student organization Presidents can provide written notice to the Student Body President informing them that they wish to return a program to their respective student organization. At that point, that program will cease to operate as an SG entity.

Proviso: A list of further contributors includes HSA Office of Political Affairs Executive Director Katelyn Madrid, BSU External Vice President Jonathan Docteur, AASU Conference Chair Meenakshi Nalla, AASU Fundraising Colin Karrel Inso, AASU Vice President of Education Joaquin R. C. Marcelino, AASU Co-Advocacy Chair Ahmad Alarachi, AASU Multimedia Chair Mahzabeen Raina Choudhury, AASU Chair of Alumni Relations Bowen Alexander Tsai, AASU Advocacy Chair Marceline Myo Thi, CASA Director of Language Alice Jiang, CASA Language Director Marissa Xia, CASA Philanthropy and Service Chair Vincent Lin, CASA Director of Multimedia - Graphics Jennifer Lin, HEAL Social Coordinator Andrea Elana Sison, HEAL ONC (Outreach and Networking Coordinator) Katherine Hayeon Kim, HEAL Co-Service Coordinator Isabelle Gatmaitan, Society of Women Engineers Vice President of External Affairs Rebekah Cristobol, Society of Women Engineers Recording Secretary Sofia Areas Mayorga, SPARKS Magazine Content Editor/Copy Editor Yeleeya Li, SPARKS Magazine Lead Content Editor Zainab Nawaz, SPARKS Magazine Design Editor Elyza Navarro, SPARKS Magazine Publicity Director Colin Strom, SPARKS Magazine Editor-in-Chief, SPARKS Magazine Design Editor Zarin Ismail, SPARKS Magazine Design Editor Jennifer Jia, SPARKS Magazine Design Editor Madison Edwards, SPARKS Magazine Photography Editor Kat Tran, SPARKS Magazine Design Editor Divya Somayaji, SPARKS Magazine Design Editor Divya Somayaji, Vietnamese Student Organization Officer | Multimedia Director Gahyun Kim, Vietnamese Student Organization Co-Fundraising Director Lam Le, Vietnamese Student Organization Public Relations Director Eric Ly

 2/28/25

Blake Cox Date
Senate President

 3/1/2025

John Brinkman Date
Student Body President

3/4/2025

Date Sent to VPSL Office

Will be enacted if not vetoed within 10 days