

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1095

TITLE: Resolution Advocating for a Memorial in the University of Florida's Library West in Honor of Professor Bernard O'Donnell

AUTHOR(S): Senator Zoe Metchick, Senator Joshua Johnson

SPONSORS: Majority Party Leader Rafeh Khan, Deputy Majority Party Leader Marco Salvador and Senator Emma Fullerton

WHEREAS, Professor O'Donnell was a professor for IDH3930, IDS4930, and POS4911 [1]; and,

WHEREAS, Professor O'Donnell was employed and taught at the University of Florida since the early 2000s while also working to earn his PhD in English [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the significance of establishing a permanent memorial to honor Professor O'Donnell is recognizing the space he held in the University of Florida community; and,

WHEREAS, community is a core value of the University of Florida [3]; and,

WHEREAS, in times of loss within the University of Florida community, appropriate measures are taken to ensure members feel supported and that the individual in question receives proper recognition for their contributions and impact; and,

WHEREAS, the University strives to implement resources to support students experiencing grief, distress, or other mental health concerns related to the loss of a loved one through the Counseling and Wellness Center [4]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes establishing a memorial in the form of a plaque at the table where Professor O'Donnell would host his office hours in UF Library West.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that this plaque would establish a permanent recognizable space where students can feel supported by the university in their loss and see the space he held at the university honored.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the University's responsibility to preserve the legacies of educators who shape the student experience and cultivate a campus culture rooted in compassion, remembrance, and community.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the impact of dedicated professors on this campus and aims to establish a permanent embodiment of the impact Professor O'Donnell made on campus and to his students.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Dean of Library West and the President of the Student Body, Blake Cox. After consultation with O'Donnell's family and obtaining their approval, and upon receiving express consent from Stacy Ewing, Chair of Library West, the proposed action is authorized.

[1] <https://one.uf.edu/soc/>

[2] <https://www.alligator.org/article/2025/03/bernard-bernie-o-donnell-jr-beloved-uf-law-professor-dies-at-55>

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

[4] <https://counseling.ufl.edu/about/>