

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2026-1001

TITLE: ROOTS Agency Community Dialogue Act

AUTHOR(S): Budget and Appropriations Chairman Marco Salvador, Senate President Maya Idiculla

SPONSOR(S): Student Body Vice President Jade Gonzalez

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 ROOTS Agency Head(s) shall participate in a ROOTS Agency Report at least once per semester, to be conducted through the Student Government Diversity and Programming Committee (“SGDPC”). The forum shall serve as a public venue for multicultural organizational leaders to ask questions, receive updates, and provide feedback on ROOTS programming, leadership processes, and adherence to responsibilities.

238.245 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.

238.256 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.

238.267 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 copy of this bill shall be sent to Student Body President Blake Cox and Student Body Treasurer Johanna Moncy.