STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2015-100

TITLE: Resolution Honoring James Bernard Machen as the Eleventh President of the University of Florida

AUTHORS: Student Body President Cory Yeoff, Senate President Joseph Michaels, Judiciary Chairman Bronco Vuskovich

SPONSORS: Senate President Pro-Tempore Davis Bean, Chairwoman Susan Webster, Chairwoman Leah Miller, Chairman Anthony Sorrentino, Chairwoman Katie Burns, Chairwoman Jenny Clements, Senator Hadar Arazi, Senator Kylie Werk, Senator Drew Baker, Senator Arielle Konen, Senator Ben Weiner

WE THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA HEREBY RESOLVE THAT

WHEREAS, on January 5th, 2004, James Bernard Machen began his service as the eleventh President of the University of Florida; and,

WHEREAS, in his eleven years as President, he faithfully served the University of Florida, developing and enhancing all facets of the university while positioning it to rise among the best public universities in the nation; and,

WHEREAS, President Machen bolstered the University’s research operation, increasing research funding by 49% since 2003 and securing $702 million for research funding in 2013 alone1; and,

WHEREAS, President Machen launched Sustainable UF, a university wide effort focused on the elimination of waste and the advancement of a sustainable culture, and established the Office of Sustainability in 20062; and,

WHEREAS, the university created the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program, which “provides financial resources and individual support with the primary goal of graduating first-generation, low-income undergraduate students” by addressing systematic barriers and challenges to ensure students thrive at the University of Florida3; and,

WHEREAS, the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program has enabled the enrollment of more than 3,200 low-income students who are the first in their families to attend college3; and,

1 http://www.urel.ufl.edu/machen-tribute/
2 http://sustainable.ufl.edu/
3 http://fos.ufsa.ufl.edu/
WHEREAS, during President Machen’s tenure, the University of Florida’s athletic program experienced incredible success in the National Collegiate Athletic Association, including fifteen national championships; and,

WHEREAS, Machen’s presidency saw the opening of the Bob Graham Center for Public Service, which is dedicated to training the next generation of Florida’s leaders and the promotion of civic engagement; and,

WHEREAS, in 2009 President Machen secured a federal grant that made possible the creation of Innovation Square, a 40 acre, state of the art facility created to foster innovation and entrepreneurship within the City of Gainesville; and,

WHEREAS, President Machen and his administration provided for 3.3 million square feet of new construction and the renovation of state of the art facilities including the J. Wayne Reitz Union, Newell Hall, Hough Hall, the Clinical and Translational Research Building, and the Chemical and Chemical Biology Building to ensure students and faculty can work and learn effectively; and,

WHEREAS, under President Machen, the university completed the Florida Tomorrow fundraising campaign, securing $1.72 billion, making it the sixth-largest capital campaign in the history of public universities2; and,

WHEREAS, under President Machen’s leadership, the Florida State Legislature designated the University of Florida as a preeminent university for the first time in Florida’s history; and,

WHEREAS, this recognition as a preeminent university provided for substantial funding for the hiring of 61 new faculty members to help the University of Florida achieve its goal of becoming a top-ten public university1; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate, on behalf of all students of the University of Florida around the world, expresses its deepest appreciation and gratitude for President James Bernard Machen and his eleven years of service, leadership, and unparalleled vision for the Gator Nation.

Proviso: a copy of this resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President James Bernard Machen

Joseph Michaels
Senate President

1 http://www.urel.ufl.edu/machen-tribute/
2 http://sustainable.ufl.edu/
3 http://fos.ufsa.ufl.edu/