STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2015-104

TITLE: Resolution Supporting Governor Rick Scott’s Education Affordability Initiatives

AUTHOR(S): External Affairs Chairman Blake Murphy, External Affairs Chief of Staff Hadar Arazi, Senator Ben Weiner

SPONSOR(S): Student Body President Cory Yeuffet, Senate President Davis Bean, Senate President Pro-Tempore Leah Miller, Senator Carter Long, Senator Ty Robare, Senator Mitchell Lamoreil, Senator Katelynd Todd, Senator Brendon Jonassaint, Senator Michael Christ, Senator Janae Moodie, Senator Smith Meyers

WHEREAS, on January 21st, 2015, Governor Rick Scott introduced the Florida 2020 Plan’s Education Initiatives aiming to make college more affordable; and,

WHEREAS, Florida State Senator Flores introduced SB 938, an act relating to postsecondary education affordability, to the Florida Senate for the 2015 legislation session; and,

WHEREAS, many University of Florida students have voiced concerns about rising textbook and tuition costs; and,

WHEREAS, according to the 2012 Florida Student Textbook survey, 54% of students spent more than $300 on textbooks during Spring 2012 and 19% spent over $500, with 63% having not purchased textbooks because of the high cost1; and,

WHEREAS, the base tuition rate at state universities has risen 54% over the last decade2; and,

WHEREAS, over half of Florida’s graduates have student loans, with the average debt being $24,0003; and,

WHEREAS, students should be made aware of any potential increases in tuition while they are attending college, as this directly impacts their finances; and,

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1 http://www.openaccesstextbooks.org/%5Cpdf%5C2012_Florida_Student_Textbook_Survey.pdf
THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the Florida 2020 Plan's Education Initiatives, which plans to make college more affordable through textbook sales tax exemptions and measures aimed at increasing college transparency in regards to tuition increase; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the Florida State Senate to support SB 938.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Rick Scott, Florida Senate President Andy Gardiner, Higher education Chair Senator Kelli Stargel, Appropriations Subcommittee on Education Chair Senator Don Gaetz, and Appropriations Committee Chair Senator Tom Lee

[Signature]
Davis Bean
Senate President

Date
4-2-15

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