Student Senate Resolution 2015-136

Title: Resolution Urging the State of Florida to Support Norman Hall Renovations at the University of Florida

Authors: College of Education Senator Maddie McClinton, External Affairs Director Matthew Hoeck, Student Body President Joselin Padron-Rasines

Sponsor(s): Vice President Kevin Doan, Student Body Treasurer Nicholas Carre, Senate President Susan Webster, President Pro Tempore Jenny Clements, Majority Party Leader Haley Smith, Minority Party Leader Nardin Derias, Member at Large Charlie Brown, Member at Large Benjamin Weiner, Senator Smith Meyers, Senator Jason Richards, Senator Michael Christ, Senator Kylie Werk, Senator Austin Champoux

WHEREAS, the University of Florida’s College of Education is housed in the historic Norman Hall, an 82-year-old building¹ unsuitable for facilitating modern education; and,

WHEREAS, Norman Hall is home to two areas of UF Preeminence: Optimizing Early Childhood Education and the Online Learning Institute, and is actively involved in a third, Informatics in Social Science Humanities in Education²; and,

WHEREAS, Norman Hall is in a state of critical disrepair, including damaged electrical wiring, water damage, extensive mold, asbestos, unsafe roofing, and insufficient technology³; and,

WHEREAS, according to University of Florida Government Relations, the building is a hazard to student safety as it is not in compliance with Fire Code or ADA standards; and,

WHEREAS, in September 2015 Norman Hall experienced an incidence of public safety concerning contaminated water throughout the building⁴; and,

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature approved the 2015-2016 Budget to include the funding for the Norman Hall renovation, which was vetoed in June 2015⁵; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida supports Norman Hall renovations as priority with an identifiable statewide impact that includes workforce development for educators, counselors,
research and policy experts, innovations in STEM education, and technology assisted instruction; and,

WHEREAS, according to the University of Florida Government Relations, the benefits of renovating this building will not only impact the 2,800 enrolled students in the College of Education, but also the student population of the University of Florida and the State of Florida Public School System; and,

WHEREAS, the College of Education yields services that address the needs of learners in Florida and the nation through over $70 million in active externally funded research projects; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Government Relations estimates that the renovations to Norman Hall would boost capacity for additional research by 20 percent and would further its ability to attract and retain nationally prominent faculty that will continue UF Goals to Preeminence;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the students and faculty of the College of Education in furthering legislative efforts to secure funding for the renovation of Norman Hall in order to provide students and faculty a safe, engaging, collaborative, and advanced facility; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the Florida Legislature to support funding for the Norman Hall Renovation Project in the 2016-2017 fiscal year and recognizes it as a top legislative priority.

Proviso: University of Florida President Kent Fuchs, University of Florida Board of Trustees, University of Florida Faculty Senate, Governor Rick Scott, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the Florida Senate Tom Lee, Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education in the Florida Senate Don Gaetz, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the Florida House of Representatives Richard Corcoran, Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education in the Florida House of Representatives Erik Fresen, Florida Speaker of the House Steve Crisafulli, Florida Senate President Andy Gardiner, Dean of the College of Education Glenn Good

[Signature]
Susan Webster
Senate President

10/15/15

6 http://ufpreeminence.org/focus-areas-3/