Student Senate Resolution 2015-140

Title: Resolution to Recognize the Continued Efforts by the University of Florida in Supporting Low-Income Students

Authors: Senator Ricardo Sabater, Minority Party Leader Nardin Derias, Senator Yuchen Wang, David Rojas, Nathan Morales

Sponsors: Courtney Thomas, Taisha Saintil, Chase Werther, Senator Jasmine Haddaway, Senator Lillian Rozsa, Senator Jordan Folkes, Senator Jessica Valdes, Majority Party Leader Haley Smith, Member-at-Large Ben Weiner, Member-at-Large Charlie Brown, and Chairman Jason Richards

WHEREAS, the University of Florida was recently ranked number six in the nation for assisting low-income students obtain a college education\(^1\); and,

WHEREAS, the ranking was based on several criteria which included the following: the number of Pell Grants awarded, percentage of Pell Grant graduates, net price for middle-income students\(^2\); and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is ranked number three in Kiplinger’s “Best Values in Public Colleges” (2013) and number three in the “Fiske Guide to Colleges list of Best Buys Among Publics” (2014)\(^3\); and,

WHEREAS, Former President Bernie Machen created the Florida Opportunity Scholars program in 2006, which has provided financial support to over 3,600 first-generation college students whose family income is less than $40,000 a year, since the program began\(^3\); and,

WHEREAS, the New York Times ranked the University of Florida number two among all universities in the number of freshmen Pell Grant recipients that are likely to graduate\(^4\); and,

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of University of Florida graduates leave the university with no student loan debt\(^2\); and,

\(^3\) [http://news.ufl.edu/articles/2015/09/nytimesranksufno6nationallyinhelpinglowincome-students.php](http://news.ufl.edu/articles/2015/09/nytimesranksufno6nationallyinhelpinglowincome-students.php)
WHEREAS, one-third of graduates leaving the University of Florida have an average indebtedness that is roughly $20,700, compared with the national average of more than $29,000²; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida has a retention rate of about 96%, one of the highest in the country²; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes and supports the continued efforts by the University of Florida to provide students of all economic status an opportunity to obtain a college education.

Proviso: A copy of the resolution shall be sent to University of Florida President Kent Fuchs, Dr. Glover (Provost), Dr. Jen Day Shaw (Dean of Students), Leslie Pendleton (Director of the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program), William Atkins (Assistant Director of the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program)

Susan Webster
Senate President

10/23/15