TITLE: Resolution Encouraging the University of Florida Athletic Association to Allow Cultural, Dance, and Student Organizations to Practice in Allotted Stadium Space

AUTHORS: Senator Kishan Patel, Senator Anthony Black, Minority Party Leader Nardin Derias, Senator D.J. Fontenot, Jessie Wang

SPONSORS: Student Body Vice President Kevin Doan, Senator Pinal Patel, Senator Yuchen Wang, Senator Yen Le, Senator Carter Long, Senator Sara Wedemeyer, Rules and Ethics Chairwoman Maddie McClinton

WHEREAS, several cultural, dance, and student organizations have utilized the Ben Hill Griffin Stadium as a space to practice dance routines showcasing diversity and self-expression for several years; and,

WHEREAS, the space has been used by several nationally recognized dance teams that perform at competitions around the country to represent the university’s diverse talent; and,

WHEREAS, these organizations need a place to practice in order to maintain their prominence on a national level and benefit the university’s recognition in communities that promote diversity; and,

WHEREAS, dancing fosters a sense of community and invokes a sense of belonging to the campus as well as each student’s respective cultures; and,

WHEREAS, there are limited spaces on campus that can accommodate practices for student dance groups; and,

WHEREAS, many alternative spaces on campus prohibit the dance groups from making much noise; and,

WHEREAS, cultural, dance, and student organizations often attempt to find alternative spaces to hold practices before relying on the stadium’s space; and,

WHEREAS, the University Athletic Association posted multiple signs outside Gates 1 through 4 of the Ben Hill Griffin Stadium that state “For your safety, unauthorized group dancing/meeting activities in this area are not permitted because of vehicular traffic”; and,

WHEREAS, most dance teams practice only after business hours; and,

WHEREAS, the signage posted by the University Athletic Association provides no further information on how to receive authorization to hold “group dancing/meeting activities”; and,

WHEREAS, many cultural, dance, and student organizations have resorted to using unsafe areas, such as parking garages, to hold their practices; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges the significance of and the value added by the dance teams at the University of Florida to the university as a whole; and,
THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the University Athletic Association to reconsider its new policy regarding the utilization of the stadium space for organizational activities.

Proviso: University Athletic Association, President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Glover, Vice President of Student Affairs Dave Kratzer, Student Activities and Involvement Director Dr. Nancy Chrystal-Green