STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2017-130

TITLE: Resolution Encouraging Concerned Students and Employees to Seek Excused Absences in Response to Richard Spencer's Speaking Engagement

AUTHORS: Senator Branden Pearson, Minority Party Leader Zachariah Chou

SPONSORS: Black Student Union, Islam on Campus, Volunteers for International Student Affairs, Women's Student Association, Inter-Residence Hall Association, Pride Student Union, Asian American Student Union, Mayors Council, Senate President Ian Green, Senate President Pro-Tempore Janae Moodie, Majority Party Leader Trevor Schaettle

WHEREAS, Richard Spencer has a planned speaking engagement at the University of Florida Phillips Center during class periods on October 19, 2017[1]; and,

WHEREAS, on December 6, 2016, two non-students were arrested on the Texas A&M campus while protesting a Richard Spencer event[2]; and,

WHEREAS, on April 18, 2017, three individuals were arrested at Auburn University during a Richard Spencer event[3]; and,

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2017, white supremacists clashed with peaceful protesters in Charlottesville, VA, which resulted in violence, injury, and death[4]; and,

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2017, white supremacists returned to Charlottesville with lit torches for another march[5]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida has been referred to as the white nationalists’ next battleground[6]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida has previously stated that students and employees may seek excused absences, flexible hours, time off, and the like from their classes and jobs, respectively[7]; and,

WHEREAS, President Fuchs and University of Florida Administration have responded actively and transparently to Richard Spencer’s speaking engagement on October 19th; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the likelihood of violence and potential injury posed to the student body by Richard Spencer and white supremacists.
THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages all affected students and employees to prioritize their physical and mental health by seeking out accommodations on October 19th.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recommends that each college’s respective Dean reach out to their students to reassure them and remind them of the option to seek an excused absence on October 19th.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recommends President Fuchs send out an email to all students and employees, reminding them that the University of Florida faculty have been asked to be understanding with concerned students and employees seeking accommodations.

\[Signature\] 10-23-17
Ian Green
Senate President

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. David Parrott, Interim Dean of Students Heather White, Senior Director of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs Will Atkins, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean Elaine Turner, College of the Arts Dean Lucinda Lavelli, Warrington College of Business Dean John Kraft, College of Dentistry Dean Isabel Garcia, College of Design, Construction and Planning Dean Chimay Anumba, College of Education Dean Glenn Good, Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering Dean Cammy Abernathy, College of Health and Human Performance Dean Michael Reid, College of Journalism and Communications Dean Diane McFarlin, Levin College of Law Dean Laura Rosenbury, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Dave Richardson, College of Medicine Dean Michael Good, College of Nursing Dean Anna McDaniel, College of Pharmacy Dean Julie Johnson, College of Public Health & Health Professions Dean Michael Perri, and College of Veterinary Medicine Dean James Lloyd.