STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2017-131

TITLE: Resolution Commemorating the University of Florida’s Contribution to the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics

AUTHORS: Senator Angel Zavala

SPONSORS: Senator Dylan Santalo, Chomp the Vote Chairman Jacob Faubion, the Judiciary Committee, Senate President Pro-Tempore Janae Moodie

WHEREAS, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics to the team of scientists who detected the existence of gravitational waves, thus proving Albert Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity[i]; and,

WHEREAS, scientists Rainer Weiss, Barry Barish, and Kip Thorne won the award for their contributions to the LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory) detector and their observations of gravitational waves[ii]; and,

WHEREAS, Barry Barish received an honorary degree from UF in 2007; and,

WHEREAS, LIGO is the world’s largest gravitational wave observatory that exploits the physical properties of light and of space itself to detect and understand the origins of gravitational waves; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida has been a key participant in this program for almost 20 years; and,

WHEREAS, UF designed the input optical system and the algorithms used to analyze the gravitational waves[iii]; then,

WHEREAS, top institutions such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the California Institute of Technology worked alongside the University of Florida to develop LIGO[iv]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the efforts made by the LIGO team and all scientists involved.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages students to go above and beyond in their academic goals and stands in support of each student's educational achievements.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate is proud of the University's scientific achievements and the strides made to become a better public institution.
Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, UF Department of Physics Chair Kevin Ingersent, and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean David Richardson.

[i] https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/2017/


[iii] https://news.it.ufl.edu/research/nobel-prize-for-physics-got-assistance-from-uf-research-computing/