STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2017-118

TITLE: Resolution Recognizing University Plan to Hire 500 New Faculty

AUTHORS: Senator Carly Ritterband, Senator Paige Eastland

SPONSORS: Senate President Pro Tempore Trevor Schaettle, Judiciary Chairwoman Emily Dempsey, Senator Emily Dunson, Senator Clay Hurdle, Senator Isabella Alfonso

WHEREAS, On June 9th, 2017, President Fuchs announced that the University of Florida will be hiring 500 new faculty members; and,

WHEREAS, the new faculty members being hired will be in addition to the 300 to 400 faculty that UF hires annually to replace those who retire or leave the university [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the increase in faculty is to further enhance teaching and research, and to continue to be one of the top research institutions in the nation; and,

WHEREAS, UF currently ranks top ten in public research universities and the administration's goal is to reach the top five [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the new hiring plan will strengthen various research disciplines in an effort to improve the University’s ranking; and,

WHEREAS, the additional faculty will improve UF’s student-faculty ratio, currently at 20:1, reducing to 16:1; this is an important metric in determining an institutions excellence [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the lower student-faculty ratio will equate UF with peer institutions that are members of the Association of American Universities such as University of Michigan (15:1) [1] and University of California Berkeley (17:1) [2]; and,
WHEREAS, the new hires will be in a variety of fields with priority given to STEM subjects and other fields focused on business start-ups, tech transfers, and economic development [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the initial funding for the new hires will come from a 52 million dollar allocation to UF [3] approved by the Florida legislature in June of this year [4]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the initiative to hire 500 additional faculty and President Fuch's continued dedication to bettering our University and achieving preeminent status as an institution.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes and supports the goal of the University to become a top five public research institution and the immense impact the hiring plan will have on this goal.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Chair of the UF Faculty Senate David M. Quillen, M.D.; Director of Student Activities and Involvement Nancy Chrystal-Green; Vice President of Student Affairs David Parrott; and President W. Kent Fuchs.