STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2017-122

TITLE: Resolution Encouraging the Gator Nation to Stand in Solidarity with the University of Virginia and its Surrounding Community While Supporting Campus Unity and Inclusivity at the University of Florida

AUTHORS: Senator Noah Harden, Senator Michael Murphy

SPONSORS: Senate President Jackie Phillips, Senate President Pro-Tempore Trevor Schaettle, Former Student Body Vice President B.J. Jonassaint, Student Senate Judiciary Committee

WHEREAS, on August 12th, a Unite the Right rally led to counter protests in Charlottesville[1], Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, this resulted in violence between white supremacists and counter protesters; and,

WHEREAS, on this day, there were 34 reported injuries; James Alex Fields’s act of terrorism was responsible for 19 of those injuries, and took the life of 32 year old Heather Heyer [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is a diverse and inclusive community that protects all speech; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes that all speech is protected by the United States Constitution[3]; and,

WHEREAS, President W. Kent Fuchs “condemns hateful and divisive speech and symbols” and urges “our campus community to join together, respect one another and promote positive speech, while allowing for differing opinions”[4]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate vehemently condemns all acts of violence, hatred, and racism that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate offers its condolences to the University of Virginia and all those affected by the events and violence that transpired.
THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate mourns the undeserving loss of Heather Heyer's life.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages a student body that accepts and respects differing opinions, while continuing to foster a united campus community.

Jackie Phillips
Senate President
9/1/17

Proviso: President W. Kent Fuchs, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. David Parrott, Interim Dean of Students Heather White, Multicultural Diversity Affairs Director Will Atkins, University of Virginia Student Body President Emily Lodge, University of Virginia Vice President and Chief of Student Affairs Patricia M. Lampkin