

STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2018-116

TITLE: Resolution Supporting Increased Funding for the Disability Resource Center

AUTHOR: Senator Benjamin Lima, Senator Keith Saint, and Senator Zachariah Chou

SPONSORS: Senator Joel Kratt, Senator Daniel Ospina, Senator Zarella Berrocal, Senate President Pro-Tempore Michael Murphy, and Senate President Danielle Grosse

WHEREAS, the Disability Resource Center “celebrates disability identity as a valued aspect of diversity” and strives for “a universally-accessible campus community that supports the holistic advancement of individuals with disabilities”⁽¹⁾; and,

WHEREAS, the Disability Resource Center provides critical resources and services including, but not limited to, accommodated testing, learning strategies and academic coaching sessions, and assistive technology programs⁽²⁾; and,

WHEREAS, the Disability Resource Center has grown from serving 1,214 students during the 2012-2013 academic year to serving 3,055 students this academic year⁽³⁾; and,

WHEREAS, only one learning specialist has been added since the 2012-2013 academic year, despite the substantial increase in demand at the facility over this period³; and,

WHEREAS, each of the center’s five learning specialists currently serve approximately 600 students³; and,

WHEREAS, in October of 2017 the Local Fee Committee denied a 5.2 cents per credit hour proposal to increase the health fee for all students that would have provided the funding necessary to hire an additional staff member³; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate fully supports the efforts of the Disability Resource Center to provide important resources and services to the students of the University of Florida.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate believes that funding for the Disability Resource Center must be increased so as to allow for the hiring of additional learning specialists to decrease the student-to-learning specialist ratio.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate respectfully requests that the Student Body President-elect, Student Body Treasurer-elect,

Board of Trustees, President Fuchs, Provost Glover, Disability Resource Center Director Gerry Altamirano, and other relevant Student Government and administrative officials collaborate towards increasing funding for the Disability Resource Center, so that it can continue to meet the needs of the increasing population and proportion of students utilizing its services.

Danielle Grosse 4/11/18
Danielle Grosse Date
Senate President

Proviso: A copy of the Resolution shall be sent to the University of Florida Board of Trustees, President Kent Fuchs, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. David Parrott, Provost Joseph Glover, Dean of Students Heather White, Assistant Dean and Director of the Disability Resource Center Gerry Altamirano, Student Body President Smith Meyers, Student Body Treasurer Revel Lubin, Student Body President-elect Ian Green, and Student Body Treasurer-elect Stefan Sanguyo.

[1] <https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/about/history-and-mission/>

[2] <https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/>

[3] http://www.alligator.org/news/disability-resource-center-struggles-with-growing-demand/article_66e66618-33cb-11e8-a156-97eeb1c35ebd.html