STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2018-133

TITLE: Resolution Recognizing the Need for Continued Efforts to Optimize 24/7 Access to Study Spaces and Libraries on Campus

AUTHORS: Majority Party Leader Graham Boone and Senator Daniel Ospina

SPONSORS: Student Body President Ian Green, Senate President Danielle Grosse, Senate President Pro-Tempore Michael Murphy, Senator Rachel Belinski

WHEREAS, the UF Student Government Executive Branch is actively working to resolve students’ concerns over the removal of 24/7 Library West access in the Fall 2018 semester; and,

WHEREAS, the voices of students concerned by the change in Library West hours have been, and continue to be, heard by the senate, executive administration, and provost; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is recognized as a preeminent research institution by the Florida legislature and ranked nationally as a top 10 public university; and,

WHEREAS, Library West reserves floor space and assigns study carrels [1] for graduate students to conduct their research and write their papers, theses, or dissertations with the aid of academic journals, course references, archived theses and dissertations, computers, printers, and scanners; and,

WHEREAS, there is a unique concern over access to hard copy materials and computers located in Library West during the hours in which the facility will not operate in a 24/5 format; and,

WHEREAS, administration, students, and Newell Hall advisory board members continue to work to improve this study-space facility as a 24/7 study space [2], which is its intended purpose; and,

WHEREAS, past collaborative efforts between the executive branch and the provost have been fruitful and beneficial [3] to the student body; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize the costs associated with funding two 24/7 study spaces are significant; and,

WHEREAS, resources are scarce and, thus, valuable; and,

WHEREAS, the provost and executive administration act on behalf of the students with a certain level of agency and an elevated understanding of systematic campus finances; and,
WHEREAS, activity and service fees should be used toward the funding of study spaces and not academic buildings; and,

WHEREAS, libraries and study-spaces serve different purposes on our university’s campus; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate stands firmly in its belief that proper library access should not be the financial responsibility of student government and the students whom it represents; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate is confident in President Ian Green’s administration’s ability to advocate on the behalf of the study body before our provost; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that our senate body encourages the continued efforts by all parties to ensure that our students’ library and study-space needs are properly met.

[2] https://newell.dso.ufl.edu/about/

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Student Body President Ian Green, Student Body Vice President David Enriquez, Student Body Treasurer Stefan Sanguyo, Provost Joseph Glover, President W. Kent Fuchs, Dean of Students Heather White, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. David W. Parrott, and Dean of University Libraries Judith Russell.

Danielle Grosse 7/27/18
Senate President