

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2009-1030

TITLE: Resolution Urging the Preservation of the Korean and Vietnamese Programs

AUTHORS: Senators Megan Vu, Ashton Charles, Chelsey Campbell, Jay Miller and Dave Schneider

SPONSORS: Senators Megan Vu, Ashton Charles, Chelsey Campbell, Jay Miller, Dave Schneider, Samantha Sexton, Scott Cutshall, Tina Steiger, Cynthia Kan, Stephen Fitzmaurice and Julia Smith

WHEREAS, the Vietnamese and Korean language subject-areas are being eliminated in May 2009 by President Bernard Machen and the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is the only institution of higher education in the state to offer Korean or Vietnamese programs; and

WHEREAS, being a flagship university in the state of Florida, as well as the fourth largest university in the nation, the University of Florida and the precedents that it sets are regarded as examples for other educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, every Korean and Vietnamese subject-area course is full or over capacity with enthusiastic heritage and non-heritage learners; and

WHEREAS, students of both Asian and non-Asian descent have affirmed the importance of these courses to campus culture and student life through public demonstrations in opposition to the dissolution of these programs; and

WHEREAS, in light of the difficult economic times and the rapidly globalizing world, these language programs differentiate and increase the marketability of University of Florida students in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, students call for the retention of their beloved Vietnamese and Korean professors, who have dedicated years of inestimable teaching and research to the University of Florida community; and

WHEREAS, students matriculate to the University of Florida in hopes of contributing to and benefiting from the university's vision of internationalism and multiculturalism; and

WHEREAS, the image of the university's dedication to diversity is and will continue to be scrutinized by the media; and

WHEREAS, University of Florida students are joined in their opposition to the removal of these programs by students from other universities throughout Florida and the rest of the United States; and

WHEREAS, distinguished University of Florida alumni and Asian-American community organizations throughout Florida share deep concern for the future of Vietnamese and Korean culture on campus and the eventual effect that it will have on Asian-American communities as a whole; and

WHEREAS, concerned parties include such notable Asian-American organizations as the Vietnamese-American Mutual Association of Tampa Bay, Cong Dong Viet Nam of Orlando, Thieu Nhi Thanh The Viet Nam Orlando chapter, the Orlando Korean-American Organization and the Pinellas Vietnamese Church of the Nazarene; then

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate urges President Machen, the Board of Trustees, and Dean D'Anieri to work with student leaders and concerned organizations to preserve the invaluable Vietnamese and Korean programs in order to remain true to the University of Florida's mission of enriching lifelong learning and dedication to cultivating diversity.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution will be sent to state legislators in Tallahassee.