

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2009-1054

TITLE: Resolution Condemning Acts of Anti-Semitism

AUTHOR: Senator Matthew Goldstein, Senator Jesse Sherman, JSU President Jason Attermann, Senator Ryan Weiss, Senator Alan Nicotra, Senator Michelle Isgut, Senator Matt Michel, Senator Chelsey Campbell, Senator Ben Cavataro

SPONSOR: Senator Louis Holzberg, Senator Aaron Ginsburg, Senator Suzanne Hershman, Senator Thomas Hilton, Senator Megan Vu, Senator Ashton Charles Senator Ben Cavataro, Senator Jon Ossip Senator James Tyger, Senator Kara Olesky

WHEREAS Anti-Semitism is defined as hostility towards Jews; and

WHEREAS the intense prejudice and hatred against Jewish people led to the Holocaust in the years from 1941 to 1945, which resulted in the brutal imprisonment and murder of over twelve million people, including over six million Jews; and

WHEREAS on Saturday April 4, 2009, a Swastika, the symbol of the Nazi movement which started the Holocaust, was discovered to have been spray painted on the house of Alpha Epsilon Pi, a nationally recognized Jewish fraternity, at the University of Florida; and

WHEREAS this blatant act of anti-Semitism is reprehensible and can lead to divisiveness on the UF campus and even violence against Jews and other minorities in our community; and

WHEREAS society has advanced in its efforts of increased equality and understanding, but continues to face such evils as racism and prejudice, and the University of Florida campus is not invulnerable; and

WHEREAS these evils are evidenced by the defamatory, hateful and anti-Semitic graffiti painted on the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity's new building; and

WHEREAS hate of all kinds stems from ignorance and a lack of understanding; and

WHEREAS the University of Florida seeks to be both a cultural and ethnic center for diversity that holds strong to the ideals of education, community improvement and global citizenship; and

WHEREAS the University of Florida Student Senate protects human rights and strives to help students make informed decisions about issues pertinent to the student body at large; then

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Florida denounces all defamatory, racist and hateful signs, speech, and actions directed towards peoples of all cultures, ethnicities, religions and backgrounds, in our effort to promote the breaking of societal barriers.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida encourages students, faculty and Gainesville citizens alike to educate themselves on the background of others and seek a mutual understanding of each other, so that the values of equality, fairness and kindness may grow, thus creating a stronger community.

THEREFOR, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate commends the efforts of the student organizations that sponsored the UF Interfaith Forum on April 7 and other events promoting our University values of respect and pluralism; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate requests that the Multicultural Affairs Cabinet, in conjunction with the Jewish Student Union, provide programming to inform students about Jewish culture, history, and the Holocaust, in its efforts to fight ignorance and to promote tolerance.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the Director of the Multicultural Affairs Cabinet.