

STUDENT SENATE BILL: 2009-1059

TITLE: Resolution against the Elimination of Leadership & Service program, and Multicultural & Diversity Affairs

AUTHORS: Senator Gaby Alvarez, Jennise Acosta, Dave Schneider and Ben Cavataro.

SPONSORS: Senator Naadira Renfroe, Anaili Triana, Winston Liu, David Lluberes, Josh Vasquez, Frank Berdos, Virlany Taboada, Maryam Laguna and Megan Vu

WE, THE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, HEREBY RESOLVE:

WHEREAS, the University of Florida website acknowledges that the “Multicultural and Diversity Affairs seeks to promote awareness, understanding of differences, collaboration of cross-cultural groups, and to foster a sense of communal relationships among all students. They also assist students in their personal development by providing programs and initiatives that educate, motivate, and challenge them as members of University of Florida”; and

WHEREAS, the University of Florida website acknowledges that “the Center for Leadership and Service (CLS) provides the structure and resources to prepare students to become productive citizens and assume roles of leadership and service in a culturally diverse and increasingly complex society”; and

WHEREAS, Multicultural and Diversity Affairs oversees the Institute of Hispanic-Latino Culture, the Institute of Black Culture, Asian-Pacific American Affairs, the American Indian Resource Center, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Affairs, and the Campus Ministry Cooperative, all of which contribute greatly to fostering a spirit of diversity on the University of Florida campus; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Hispanic Culture and the Institute of Black Culture offers a unique set of services to all students such as free printing, organizational lunch series, rooms for organizations to meet in, and educational forums, all of which are vital to fostering a diverse community in and around the University of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Leadership and Service oversees organizations and programs including 100 Projects for Peace, ACTIONS!, After School Gators, CLS Challenge, Florida Alternative Breaks, Gator Non-Profit Professionals, Gator Teens Mentors, Lead101, LeaderShape, Project MASCOT, Service Ambassadors, SOAR at Howard Bishop, and the Women's Leadership Council, all of which better equip students at the University of Florida to become leaders within their school and their community; and

WHEREAS, the Office of The President announced on Thursday, April 16th 2009 the potential elimination of the Center for Leadership & Service, and Multicultural & Diversity Affairs, including IBC and La Casita for a combined total budget cut of \$507,879; and

WHEREAS, this decision will personally impact 9 staff members and 4 graduate assistants that currently are employees at the Center for Leadership & Service, and Multicultural & Diversity Affairs, and hence it will affect students' hopes of contributing to and benefiting from the university's vision of internationalism and multiculturalism; and

WHEREAS, there are 45 students who work at the Institute of Hispanic Latino Culture, and at the Institute of Black Culture, approximately half on which rely on Federal Work-Study; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the University of Florida Student Senate urges President Machen, to work with student leaders and concerned organizations to preserve the Leadership & Service program, and Multicultural & Diversity Affairs in order to remain true to the University of Florida's mission of enriching lifelong learning and dedication to cultivating diversity.