

STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2018-143

TITLE: Student Body Resolution Addressing In-State Tuition Status for Newly Enrolled Puerto Rican Students

AUTHORS: Senator Stephanie Beltran and Allocations Chairwoman Katelyn Hernandez

SPONSORS: Student Body Vice President David Enriquez, Florida Latinx Hispanic American Student Union President Dylan Santalo, Hispanic Student Association President Brenda Villanueva, Senator Mauricio Perez, Senator Derlis Leyva, Senator Matthew Diaz, Senator Brianna Adan, Senator Lauren Adler and Union de Estudiantes Puertorriqueños Activos (UEPA)

WHEREAS, the precedent set forth by Student Senate Resolution 2017-129 expresses the support of the Student Senate towards the people of Puerto Rico affected by Hurricane Maria; and,

WHEREAS, in an Emergency Order signed on October 6, 2017, Florida's Commissioner of Education, Pam Stewart, stated that "many long-term evacuees to Florida have lost access to higher education in Puerto Rico and elsewhere and may wish to attend Florida's state colleges" and hence authorized state colleges "to waive existing statutory and rule requirements relating to student enrollment and placement" in order to "allow these students displaced by Hurricane Maria to enroll" promptly¹; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Rick Scott has allowed all Florida College System institutions to offer in-state tuition to Puerto Rican students who were affected by Hurricane Maria and has waived many rules to allow Puerto Rican students to attend schools in Florida²; and,

WHEREAS, the precedent set forth by the Bipartisan Budget Act of February 9, 2018, included a \$75 million budget for colleges and universities, specifically in Florida, that enrolled displaced students and has given in-state tuition to displaced students³; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Central Florida, a Hispanic Serving Institution, offered out-of-state tuition reduction to 210 students affected by Hurricane Maria in fall 2017 and has extended their in-state tuition for Puerto Rican students through 2023 for fully enrolled students⁴; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida provided in-state tuition status for up to eight semesters to students enrolled full-time that were residents of Puerto Rico during fall of 2017 after Hurricane Maria on September 20, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida has not provided in-state tuition status to newly-enrolled students in fall 2018 that are residents of Puerto Rico and were also affected by Hurricane Maria; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida has not provided in-state tuition status to newly-enrolled students that were displaced in Florida after Hurricane Maria and are still not eligible for residency in the state of Florida; and,

WHEREAS, increasing support for displaced Latino students contributes to the goal of the University of Florida becoming a Hispanic Serving Institutions; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate expresses its support to respectfully request the Board of Trustees to set an earlier meeting to discuss the extension of in-state tuition eligibility for the current and incoming students, including the newly-enrolled freshmen of fall 2018 before November 1.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes how the newly enrolled Puerto Rican students have been similarly affected by Hurricane Maria as pre-existing students but were not extended the same out-of-state tuition waiver.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the University of Florida Student Senate acknowledges the need to follow the precedent set forth by the University of Central Florida, among others, and better advertise resources and financial aid offered to Hurricane Maria victims.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the University of Florida administration's efforts in extending a helping hand to student victims of Hurricane Maria and wishes to see continued support and aid for students affected by natural disasters.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Provost Dr. Joseph Glover, Dean of Students Dr. Heather White, Student Legal Services Director Jon C. Adcock, Vice President for Enrollment Management Dr. Zina L Evans, Vice President for Human Resources Jodi Gentry, Dean of the International Center Leonardo A Villi3n, Director of Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Will Atkins, Hispanic-Latino Affairs Director Gabe Lara, Hispanic Student Association President Brenda Villanueva, Student Body President Ian Green, Student Body Vice President David Enriquez, Student Body Treasurer Stefan Sanguyo, and University President Dr. W. Kent Fuchs.


1 <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5673/urlt/FinalOrderFCS10617.pdf>

2 <https://www.flgov.com/2017/10/06/gov-scott-directs-florida-department-of-education-to-take-additional-action-to-help-puerto-rican-students-and-educators/>

3 <https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/hr1892/BILLS-115hr1892enr.pdf>

4 <https://today.ucf.edu/ucf-extends-state-tuition-rate-puerto-rican-students-2023/>

5 <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/idades/hsidivision.html>


Michael Murphy
Senate President


Date