

STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2018-145

TITLE: Resolution Recommending Stronger Resources for Sexual Assault Survivors

AUTHORS: Bailey Triggs, Ashley Grabowski, Matthew Barocas, Senator Matthew Diaz, John Etienne, Zachary Amrose

SPONSORS: LGBTQ Affairs Cabinet Director Jordan Laib, Greek Affairs Cabinet Director James Davis, Women's Affairs Cabinet Director Nicole Corder, Gainesville City Commissioner Gail Johnson, Women's Student Association, UF College Democrats, Senator Ché John, Senator Zachariah Chou, Senator William Zelin, Senator Benjamin Lima, Minority Party Leader Felipe Gatos

WHEREAS, the term sexual assault refers to sexual contact or behavior that occurs without explicit consent of the victim. Some forms of sexual assault include rape, attempted rape, fondling or unwanted sexual touching, and forcing a victim to perform unwanted sexual acts₁; and,

WHEREAS, 20% of female, 4% of male, and 21% of transgender, genderqueer, and gender nonconforming students are sexually assaulted while in college₂; and,

WHEREAS, about 85-90% of sexual assaults reported by college women are perpetrated by someone known to the victim₃; and,

WHEREAS, on campuses, it is expected that about 88% of rapes and 96% of sexual batteries are not reported₄; and,

WHEREAS, 17 rapes were reported to UFPD in 2017₅, thus actual rapes on campus could be much higher given average reportage rates; and,

WHEREAS, only 6% of assaults reported to the police result in the assailant spending even a day in prison₆; and,

WHEREAS, an assailant has a 99% chance of avoiding a prison sentence₆; and,

WHEREAS, victims wait 11 months on average before reporting their assault if they choose to report it₇; and,

WHEREAS, a timestamped document preserves evidence even if a victim chooses to report at a later time; and,

WHEREAS, 90% of sexual assaults are committed by repeat offenders₈; and,

WHEREAS, if assailants were stopped after their second offense, then 59% of sexual assaults would be prevented₉; and,

WHEREAS, an information escrow is an entity which releases information only once certain predetermined conditions are met¹⁰; and,

WHEREAS, an information escrow based on the predetermined condition of a matching assailant allows a student the comfort of knowing that their assault won't be reported unless their assailant is reported by another victim⁹; and,

WHEREAS, there is no existing anonymous sexual assault reporting program at the University of Florida; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida has an opportunity to grow its existing sexual assault resources to match the quality of those offered by other leading academic institutions; and,

WHEREAS, there is a need for a reporting program which presents a more approachable interface for victims, featuring inclusive language and framing questions with due sensitivity to the victims; and,

WHEREAS, the existence of a robust reporting program may deter potential assailants from committing sexual assault; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate is committed to ensuring that authorities receive the information they need to properly prosecute sexual assault cases.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate is committed to ensuring that victims of sexual assault are empowered with the resources they deserve.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recommends that the University of Florida consider implementing sexual assault reporting resources that allow the victim the options to file timestamped reports, utilize an information escrow to allow victims to file a report immediately or only if a repeat assailant is detected, and report directly to authorities to trigger an investigation or consultation.

1 <https://www.rainn.org/articles/sexual-assault>

2 <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence>

3 <https://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/rape-sexual-violence/campus/Pages/know-attacker.aspx>

4 <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ccsvsfr.pdf>

5 <https://police.ufl.edu/media/policeufl.edu/documents/UFPD-Gainesville-ASR.pdf>

6 <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/criminal-justice-system>

7 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11991158>

8 <https://kinseyconfidential.org/most-campus-rapes-are-committed-by-repeat-offenders/>

9 https://www.ted.com/talks/jessica_ladd_the_reporting_system_that_sexual_assault_survivors_want/

10 https://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=5773&context=fss_papers

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 Human Resources Jodi Gentry, University Title IX coordinator Dr. Russell Froman, the UF Police Department's Office of Victim Services, STRIVE, U Matter, We Care, the Office of Multicultural and Diversity Affairs, Student Body President Ian Green, Student Body Vice President David Enriquez, Student Body Treasurer Stefan Sanguyo, and University President Dr. W. Kent Fuchs.

Michael Murphy

Michael Murphy
Senate President

11/16/19
Date