

3-6-2020

## JR-20S-3490: Sawmill Slough Nature Preserve Expansion

Student Government Association University of North Florida

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# SENATE LEGISLATION

## JR-20S-3490

### *JR-20S-3490: Sawmill Slough Nature Preserve Expansion*

- 1 Whereas: The Student Government of the University of North Florida was established to represent student  
2 concerns in all University wide matters, and;  
3
- 4 Whereas: The Senate is the legislative body of the University of North Florida's Student Government given  
5 the responsibility of carrying out such legislative acts that are necessary and proper for the Student  
6 Body of the University of North Florida, and;  
7
- 8 Whereas: The Student Government of the University of North Florida has a constitutional duty to advocate  
9 for matters concerning the student body;  
10
- 11 Whereas: The University of North Florida's core values include "Responsibility to the Natural  
12 Environment" and "Community Engagement";  
13
- 14 Whereas: The Student Government of the University of North Florida was established to represent student  
15 concerns in all University wide matters, and;  
16
- 17 Whereas: The Sawmill Slough Preserve being an important aspect of both student life and biological research  
18 at the University of North Florida deserves special consideration, and;  
19
- 20 Whereas: Legislative recognition dealing with the preserve's expansion may be necessary for the further  
21 protection and prosperity of this essential campus asset, and;  
22
- 23 Whereas: The University of North Florida professes a responsibility to the natural environment as  
24 institutional core value, and;  
25
- 26 Whereas: The Sawmill Slough Preserve serves as a wildlife sanctuary for seven state threatened plant species,  
27 the state protected gopher tortoise, the federally threatened American alligator, and the federally  
28 endangered wood stork, and;  
29
- 30 Whereas: The Preserve contains species-rich longleaf pine forests, a rapidly diminishing natural resource in  
31 the United States where less than five percent remains of the original pine forests, making the  
32 preserve invaluable to conservation of prime pine habitat, and;  
33
- 34 Whereas: The trails on the Preserve are recognized by the United States Department of Interior and are  
35 designated as a component of the National Trails System, and;  
36
- 37 Whereas: The University of North Florida has more green space on campus than any other university in  
38 Florida, making the University of North Florida different and unique compared to other  
39 universities, and enhances the "the Florida experience" for students, and;  
40



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41 Whereas: The Sawmill Slough accommodates not only university students but also the people of  
42 Jacksonville. Over a hundred visitors come out each month to enjoy the Preserve from school  
43 groups to non-profit organizations, and;  
44

45 Whereas: The UNF Departments of Biology, Public Health, Art and Design, and Geography utilize the  
46 preserve for approximately ten different courses accommodating over 1,200 students a year. This  
47 provides hands-on field experience for students and makes the University more unique by  
48 offering outdoor learning opportunities, and;  
49

50 Whereas: Fourteen academic research papers about the Preserve have been published by faculty, and there  
51 is current ongoing research by Dr. Michael Aspinwall, regarding biofuel alternatives, and Dr.  
52 Joseph Butler, regarding state protected gopher tortoises, and;  
53

54 Therefore: Let it be enacted that the Student Government at the University of North Florida supports  
55 the proposal to extend the boundaries of the Sawmill Slough Preserve in order to include  
56 and protect the areas of the Gopher ridge, Robert W. Loftin trails and the Wildlife corridor  
57 for all students and Jacksonville community members to enjoy for generations to come.

58 Furthermore:  
59 Let this resolution be forwarded to Dr. David Szymanski, President of the University of North  
60 Florida; Dr. Simon Rhodes, Provost of the University of North Florida; and the Board of  
61 Trustees of the University of North Florida.

### 62 Legislative Action

63  
64 Author: Catherine Selin  
65 Sponsor: Emily Jeffries  
66 Committee: University and Student Affairs Committee  
67 Committee Action: 7-0-0  
68 Date of Action: 2/28/2020  
69 Senate Action: Unanimous Consent  
70 Date of Action: 3/6/2020  
71

72 Signed and Delivered to the Student Body President  
73 on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

Signed:   
*Thatcher Hart, Student Senate President*

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03:54:00 02/20/20 100



Student  
Government  
University of North Florida

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### Executive Action

Let it be known that JR-20S-3490 is hereby

APPROVED / VETOED

on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH, 2020

Signed,



*John Aloszka, Student Body President*

Signed and Delivered to the Senate Secretary

Time Stamp Here: