

11-19-2020

JR-20F-3516: Joint Resolution Condemning Sexual Assault at UNF and Elsewhere

Student Government Association University of North Florida

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- 1 Whereas: The Student Government of the University of North Florida was established to represent
2 student concerns in all University wide matters, and;
- 3 Whereas: The Senate is the legislative body of the University of North Florida’s Student Government given
4 the responsibility of carrying out such legislative acts that are necessary and proper for the
5 Student Body of the University of North Florida, and;
- 6 Whereas: The Student Government of the University of North Florida has a constitutional duty to
7 advocate for matters concerning the student body;
- 8 Whereas: The University of North Florida’s core values include ethical conduct in academic and personal
9 situations;
- 10 Whereas: The University of North Florida professes a responsibility to the student body’s wellbeing and
11 safety as a basic human right;
- 12 Whereas: The University of North Florida professes a responsibility to the student body’s wellbeing and
13 safety as a basic human right;
- 14 Whereas: According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, one in 5 women and one in 16 men
15 are sexually assaulted while in college, as well as 21% of transgender, genderqueer, and
16 nonconforming college students¹;
- 17 Whereas: More than 90% of rape victims on college campuses do not report the crime according to the
18 United States Department of Justice²;
- 19 Whereas: These statistics indicate that sexual assault and misconduct affects college students nationwide,
20 including the University of North Florida;
- 21 Whereas: According to the University of North Florida’s crime statistics, reported rapes increased from 2
22 in 2015³ to 5 in 2016⁴, 9 in 2017⁵, 4 in 2018⁶, and 12 in 2019⁷;
- 23 Whereas: The University of North Florida Police Department website uses inappropriate language
24 addressing sexual assault such as, “If someone is pressuring you, say that you don’t like it—and
25 mean it;”⁸

¹ The National Sexual Violence Resource Center. https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/2017-06/nsvrc_one_pager_0.pdf

² Fisher, B., Cullen, F., & Turner, M. (2000). The sexual victimization of college women. Retrieved from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service. https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications_nsvrc_factsheet_media-packct_statistics-about-sexual-violence_0.pdf

³ University of North Florida Jeanne Clery Act 2015 Crime Statistics <https://www.unf.edu/uploadedFiles/anf/upd/2015%20Crime%20Stats.pdf>

⁴ University of North Florida Jeanne Clery Act 2016 Crime Statistics <https://www.unf.edu/uploadedFiles/anf/upd/2016%20Crime%20Stats.pdf>

⁵ University of North Florida Jeanne Clery Act 2017 Crime Statistics <https://www.unf.edu/uploadedFiles/anf/upd/2017%20Crime%20Stats.pdf>

⁶ University of North Florida Annual Security and Fire Safety Report 2018

<https://www.unf.edu/uploadedFiles/anf/upd/University%20of%20North%20Florida%202018%20Annual%20Security%20Report%20with%20stats.pdf>

⁷ University of North Florida Annual Security and Fire Safety Report for 2019

<https://www.unf.edu/uploadedFiles/anf/upd/University%20of%20North%20Florida%202019%20Annual%20Security%20Report%20with%20stats.pdf>

⁸ University of North Florida Police Department https://www.unf.edu/upd/Sexual_Battery.aspx



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26 Whereas: Sexual assault affects the University of North Florida directly, resulting in the expulsion of Kappa
27 Sigma Fraternity from campus and UNF Greek Life, as well as allegations against University of
28 North Florida's U.S. Army ROTC program;

29 Whereas: Students on the University of North Florida campus may be at greater risk of sexual assault due
30 to a lack of sufficient lighting;

31 Whereas: According to a Roundtable survey conducted by the Student Government of the University of
32 North Florida in the Fall of 2019, 35.5% of respondents felt unsafe in Lot 18 at night and 30%
33 felt unsafe in the campus parking garages at night, and 34.3% of respondents indicated that there
34 is not adequate lighting on campus;

35 Whereas: According to a Roundtable survey conducted by the Student Government of the University of
36 North Florida in the Fall of 2020, 63.3% of respondents experienced or knew somebody who
37 experienced sexual assault as defined in the survey;

38 Whereas: According to the same survey, 79% of those who reported experiencing sexual assault did not
39 feel comfortable reporting such an incident; and of those who reported experiencing sexual
40 assault incidents, only 35% believed that the University handled the incident properly;

41 Whereas: In the same survey, 40% of those who reported experiencing sexual assault said that the incident
42 occurred on campus; and 35% of respondents reported experiencing or knowing somebody who
43 experienced sexual assault at fraternity or sorority events;

44 **Therefore:** Let it be known that the Student Government of the University of North Florida does not
45 tolerate sexual assault in any form and advocates for an increase in ~~or an increase in~~
46 sexual assault and harassment trainings for the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life; a
47 mandated sexual assault and harassment training for all University of North Florida
48 students by the University; better use of language and resources on the University Police
49 Department website; and an action plan developed by the University of North Florida
50 Campus Safety Advisory Council addressing inadequate lighting on campus and student
51 safety concerns.

52 Furthermore: Upon passage, let this Joint Resolution be forwarded to the Title IX Office, the University of
53 North Florida Police Department, the University of North Florida Campus Safety Advisory
54 Council, the University of North Florida Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Physical
55 Facilities, The Office of the University President, University of North Florida Student Health
56 Services and the ROTC program at the University of North Florida.

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Legislative Action

Executive Action

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Author: Chief of Staff Mina Masody, Communications Coordinator Emily Echevarria

Sponsor: Parliamentarian Sophia Gallo

Committee: University and Student Affairs

Committee Action: 5-0-0

Date of Committee Action: 11/06/2020

Senate Action: 11/13/2020

Date of Action: 14-0-0

Signed and Delivered to the Student Body President
on this 16 day of Nov, 20.

Let it be known that JR-20F-3516 is hereby

APPROVED / VETOED / LINE-ITEM VETOED

on this 19 day of NOV, 2020

Signed, _____

Ally Schneider, Student Body President

Signed and Delivered to the Senate Secretary

Place Time Stamp Here

NOV 19 2020 1:45

Place Time Stamp Here

NOV 16 2020 1:08

Signed: _____

Rachel Saunders, Student Senate President

