



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

# 73<sup>RD</sup> STUDENT SENATE Senate Resolution

Resolution #: 9

Primary Sponsor: Ahmad Daraldik

**Whereas:** The Constitution of The Florida State University Student Body states that the purpose of the Student Government Association is "To take action on behalf of the student body in general, and to specifically work for the protection of full student autonomy over student life, services, and interests.," and,

**Whereas:** In 2017, the FSView and Florida Flambeau published an article titled "Let's take a look at Burning Spear, Florida State's secret society" and,

**Whereas:** This article cites and provides an embedded version of the initiation manual for the Burning Spear Organization, which states "By 1995 you had 3 organizations controlling campus leadership and one organization (Burning Spear) controlling those 3: SGA, IFC/Panhellenic/NPHC and SAA." and,

**Whereas:** The manual further states that "Burning Spear is not a democracy. \_\_\_\_\_ is the President and that means with few exceptions, what (she/he) says, goes. The Student President reports directly to the corporate Board of Directors, specifically the Chairman. \_\_\_\_\_ is the Chairman of the Board of Directors. A lot of times rulings she makes will not be hers, she may not even support them, however, we are a corporation and we are governed by a Board of Directors. In a very distant way, we are like the mafia. We protect our own and our interests, we work efficiently, we work effectively, we do nothing lackadaisically, we do nothing to comprise the trust and integrity of the group, and we are elite." and,

**Whereas:** The sentiments expressed in this manual directly contradict the purpose of the Student Government Association as outlined in the Constitution of "full student autonomy" with the claim that a "Corporate Board of Directors" controls the Student Government Association, a claim that has previously gone unaddressed, therefore,

**Be it resolved by the Seventy-Third Student Senate at Florida State University that:** We assert our autonomy and denounce the claim by the Burning Spear Organization that they control the Student Government Association Student Senate and the appointed and elected officials within it, in direct violation of The Florida State University Student Body Constitution, and we encourage the Executive branch, the Judicial branch, and all other FSU organizations mentioned in this resolution to make public statements asserting their autonomy. This is an opportunity for us all to finally get out from behind the mysterious and sad shadow of Burning Spear.

**Be it further resolved that:**

- A copy of this resolution be sent to: Jonathan Levin, Student Body President
- Julie Ducey, Supreme Court Chief Justice
- Jacey Hanley, Student Alumni Association President
- Riley Rubio, Student Seminole Boosters President
- Jay Thompson, Student Foundation President
- Sam Lopez, President of the Interfraternity Council
- Sarah Jenkins, President of the Panhellenic Executive Board
- Jose Petit Frere, President of NPHC `1
- Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs
- John Thrasher, President of Florida State University
- Zachary Bethel, Editor-In-Chief of FSUView
- Chris Graham, Director of OFSL

DocuSigned by:

*Alexander Harmon*

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3/8/2021 | 7:48 PM EST

OFFICIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Senate President

PASSED: March 3rd, 2021