



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

76th STUDENT SENATE Senate Resolution

Resolution #: 08

Primary Sponsor(s): Garcia

Co-Sponsor(s): Ahuja, Anandjiwala, Barresi, Carr, Castellanos, Chinn, Daley, Emokidi, Gomez, Gorelick, Hellmann, Hine, McEnery, Meier, Olsen-Galvan, Ramos, Randall, Rodriguez, Smith, Valdes-Herrera, Vargheese, Windlan

Date: 1/14/2024

Whereas: Florida State University's College of Law Building, B.K. Roberts Hall, is named after Bonnie Kaslow Roberts, prominent segregationist and racist, and

Whereas: Whereas B.K. Roberts drafted the 1957 Florida Supreme Court Opinion to deny law school admission to African American student Virgil Hawkins in defiance of federal integration orders, and

Whereas: Calls to rename B.K. Roberts Hall led to the 2019, 34-1, passage of Senate Bill 7076, providing Florida State University with the option of removing B.K. Roberts's name from its law school building, although the initiative failed in the House, and

Whereas: In 2020, the Board of Trustees unanimously voted on a resolution to rename B.K. Roberts Hall to "reflect FSU's core values of justice, equality, compassion, and respect," and

Whereas: Former President Thrasher noted that "to keep the name of B.K. Roberts on the law school building would continue to honor someone whose decisions and actions do not reflect Florida State University's values or rule of law," and

Whereas: Florida State University's Integration Statue on Legacy Walk is a monument to the legacy to the many "firsts" of African American Students at the university, including Maxwell Courtney, our first African American graduate, Fred Flowers, our first African American athlete, and Doby Flowers, our First African American Homecoming Princess, and the many students who paved the way towards integration which B.K. Roberts vehemently opposed, and

Whereas: Florida State University President Richard McCullough has stated his commitment to "Creating a learning and working environment where everyone can have a sense of belonging," and


Whereas: The existing name of B.K. Roberts Hall serves as both a physical and symbolic testament to the legacy of segregation, racism, and violence against the African American community and a visceral reminder of prejudice on campus.

Be it resolved by the Seventy-Sixth Student Senate at Florida State University that: We call on Florida State University to rename B.K. Roberts Hall and to condemn hatred, prejudice, and racism, both past and present.

Be it further resolved that: A copy of this resolution be sent to:

Dr. Richard McCullough, President of Florida State University
Dr. Jim Clark, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs
Erin O'Hara O'Connor, Dean of Florida State University College of Law
Peter Collins, Chair of Florida State University Board of Trustees
Danni Vogt, Founder and Leader of the "Rename B.K. Roberts Hall Now!" Initiative
Bridgett Birmingham, FSU Faculty Senate President

OFFICIAL: _____

DocuSigned by:

371F726A9A994B6

1/26/2024 | 2:45 PM PST

Student Senate President

SENATE VOTE: 56-0-0
PASSED: January 24, 2024