

# 73<sup>ND</sup> STUDENT SENATE

## Senate Resolution

Resolution #: 14

**Sponsored by:** Senator Martin, Hitchcock

**Whereas:** The Florida State University Student Government Association's Office of Government Affairs is tasked with advocating and representing the interests of the student body at the university, local, state, and federal levels, and

**Whereas:** The Board of Directors of the Office of Governmental Affairs complied, debated, and approved a legislative agenda for the upcoming legislative session, and

**Whereas:** Florida State Student Government Association recommends the following to the Florida Legislature to enhance student life and learning in the State of Florida, and

**Whereas:** FSU SGA supports the continuous enhancement of campus safety and is against campus carry state legislation, and

**Whereas:** FSU SGA supports and seeks to protect students' right to peacefully assemble and protest in respect to our first amendment right, and disapproves attempts to increase punishment regarding peaceful assembly, by strongly opposing HB 1, and

**Whereas:** FSU SGA urges the Florida House of Representatives to repeal Chapter 73-370 allowing for campuses to name and rename University buildings, and

**Whereas:** FSU SGA supports financial aid and in-state tuition extensions to students with temporary protected immigration or DACA status if classified as a Florida resident, and

**Whereas:** FSU SGA supports COVID-19 relief to students, and highly encourages legislators to include college students in their policies, and

**Whereas:** FSU SGA recognizes the need to respect faculty's intellectual property and protect the right for students and administration to approve or deny speakers at the best interest of the student body, by opposing HB 233, and

**Whereas:** FSU SGA supports efforts of expanding state allocations for incoming students to benefit from Bright Futures, and

**Whereas:** FSU SGA supports legislation to increase voter accessibility and automatic voter registration in the State of Florida, and

**Whereas:** FSU SGA supports the legislative priorities of the Florida State University, emphasizing but not limited to, appropriating funding for the Legacy Hall Business Building, the Veteran's Legacy Complex, for the Joint FAMU-FSU College of Engineering Building, and

**Whereas:** FSU SGA recognizes the continued enhancement and expansion of the Florida State University Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement (CARE) department by appropriating funding to support traditionally transition for underrepresented students, including the Unconquered Scholars Program, and

**Whereas:** FSU SGA supports enhanced efforts to improve veterans' access to higher education and supports the Purple Heart Waiver to include funding for postgraduate education for veterans, therefore

**Be it resolved by the Seventy-second Student Senate at Florida State University that:**

This resolution is formally adopted as the 2021 Legislative Agenda for the Florida State University.

**Be it further resolved that:** This resolution is sent to:

John Thrasher, President of Florida State University

Elizabeth Hirst, Associate Vice President and Chief of Staff at Florida State University

Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President of Student Affairs

Clay Ingram, Chief Lobbyist of Florida State University

Dr. Brandon Bowden, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs

Emmabella Rudd, Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs

Jonathan Levin, Student Body President



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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

**Resolution #: 15**

**Primary Sponsor:** Tackett, Ramos

**Co-Sponsor(s):** Villacorta, Marcus, Arutt, Stults, Gerdts, Preshia, Fineout, Little

**Date:** 01/21/21

**Whereas:** President Biden on January 20, 2021 signed a presidential memorandum directing homeland security to take major actions in preserving and fortifying the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The DACA program shields undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children from deportation as well as gives these individuals the access to education and work permits. All new applicants are at least 15 years of age, making them near or of college age, and

**Whereas:** This program was halted under the Trump administration in 2017 leaving many to lose their DACA status because they were unable to apply or have it reinstated after expiration. Being that this program will be reinstated and allow for new and old applicants to apply there will be an influx of undocumented and DACA recipient students on Florida State's campus; which is not a sanctuary campus because of S.B. 168 (2019), and

**Whereas:** 24,810 DACA recipients live in Florida as of March 2020 and more than one-fifth of all Florida residents are immigrants making up 10% of the United States total immigrant population. Florida is a melting pot of diversity and is the third largest state population of immigrants in the United States, and

**Whereas:** Undocumented and immigrant student populations are more likely than non-immigrant and domestic born students to face economic hardships concerning exploitation of labor and higher tuition costs in the community and on campus. Undocumented students do not have access to FAFSA Grants and other federally funded programs or grants at the university, and

**Whereas:** Undocumented and immigrant students face issues of harrasment and discrimination on campus. This will continue to rise as the number of DACA applicants grows under the current federal administration. Specifically, the forced exposure of immigration status in administrative paperwork at the university instills anxiety and can lead to discrimination by students or staff, therefore

**Be it resolved by the Seventy-Third Student Senate at Florida State University that:**

A DREAM Center be established on campus for immigrant and undocumented students. This center should provide legal services, student mentorship, financial-aid help, specialized mental health counseling, academic advising, and amenities similar to those at the CARE Center (free printing, food pantry, etc.).

**Be it further resolved that:** The CARE Center's Lab and its amenities be made immediately available to undocumented and immigrant students to help offset the economic and educational hardships that these student populations face until the DREAM Center is established.

**Be it further resolved that:** An Immigrant and Undocumented Student Task Force be established in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion that focuses on resolving the issues stated above and confronting new issues as they arise in the future.

**Be it further resolved that:** Undocumented and immigrant students at FSU are often an intersectional group of marginalized individuals from all across the globe, and any taskforce or center established to aid their academic experience at Florida State University must recognize this fact and not discriminate on the basis of a students country/region of origin.

**Be it further resolved that:** The Florida State University Police Department should not cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on any investigation or operation in order for these student populations to feel safe and free of deportation while on Florida State's campus.

Sources:

1. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/preserving-and-fortifying-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals-daca/>
2. <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-florida>
3. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/08/20/key-findings-about-u-s-immigrants/#:~:text=Where%20do%20most%20U.S.%20immigrants,in%202018%2C%20at%2010.6%20million.>
4. <https://www.aclufl.org/en/legislation/senate-bill-168-anti-immigrant-attempts-ban-sanctuary-policies-and-require-local-law>
5. <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/18/05/supporting-undocumented-students-and-mixed-status-families>





THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

## 72<sup>ND</sup> STUDENT SENATE Senate Resolution

Resolution #: 16

Primary Sponsor: Marcus

Co-Sponsor(s): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Date: 02-03-2021

**Whereas:** On Wednesday, January 27th, 2021, two separate EF-1 tornadoes tracked across Leon County and the city of Tallahassee, damaging portions of the Tallahassee International Airport and the Southwood neighborhood within the city limits, and

**Whereas:** A Tornado Warning was issued for Leon County, including the Florida State University campus, at 11:20 AM, and

**Whereas:** A damaging tornado was confirmed to be within Tallahassee city limits at 11:43 AM, and

**Whereas:** An FSU Alert went out at 11:34 AM informing registered individuals that campus was under a tornado warning, and

**Whereas:** Another FSU Alert went out at 11:51 AM informing registered individuals that campus was still under a tornado warning, and

**Whereas:** An alarm went off in FSU buildings informing individuals that there was a tornado warning in effect, and

**Whereas:** Multiple students flooded the text messages and social media private messages of the FSU Meteorology students from the College of Arts and Sciences and the FSU Weather student television production accounts with questions regarding proper tornado safety protocols, and

**Whereas:** Multiple students living in FSU Residence Halls informed FSU Meteorology students that their Resident Assistants were unable to provide them with clear instructions as to where to go to seek shelter within their buildings, and

**Whereas:** Multiple FSU students living in multi-story student apartment/housing complexes reported that there was no tornado safety plans in place for their apartment complexes, and

**Whereas:** The National Weather Service Tallahassee, located in the Love Building, recommends that individuals “Move to an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows... and protect yourself from flying debris,” in the event of a tornado, and

**Whereas:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Weather Ready Nation recommends that schools “follow your tornado drill and proceed to your tornado shelter location quickly and calmly. Stay away from windows and do not go to large open rooms such as cafeterias, gymnasiums, or auditoriums,” in the event of a tornado, and

**Whereas:** The alerts.fsu.edu website reads, “When a tornado warning is issued for campus, immediately seek shelter in the nearest well-constructed building, away from doors and windows. Try to reasonably place as many walls between you and the outside as possible. Seek more information. Go to alerts.fsu.edu to obtain the details about the warning, including: estimated arrival time, direction, duration, and estimated expiration time. Once the warning has expired, and there is no evidence of damage, you may proceed with your normal course of business,” and

**Whereas:** The FSU Housing website reads, “In the event of a tornado threat to FSU, the university will provide specific recommendations for how students should prepare,” and

**Whereas:** It is evident that a large portion of students, including resident assistants and off-campus residents, were unprepared for a tornado emergency to occur, and

**Whereas:** The emergency.fsu.edu website says “The SGA has an Office of Campus Security which works closely with the FSU Public Safety departments to ensure the safety of students on campus;” therefore

**Be it resolved by the Seventy-second Student Senate at Florida State University that:**

Florida State University Housing should create a concrete, actionable tornado warning preparedness plan based off the guidelines from both the Federal Emergency Management Agency's "Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Institutions of High Education" and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Weather Ready Nation.

**Be it further resolved that:** University Housing should implement a semesterly tornado drill similar to the fire drills it already conducts.

**Be it further resolved that:** University Housing should train its Resident Assistants and Night Staff on what to do in the event of a tornado so that they can calmly inform residents of what to do in the event of a warning

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

John Thrasher, President of Florida State University  
Shannon Staten, Executive Director of University Housing  
Edwin Darrell, Director of Residential Student Experience  
Rachel Blakesly, Associate Director of Residential Student Experience  
Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Curtis Sommerhoff, Director of Emergency Management  
Matt Lewis, Emergency Management Preparedness Coordinator  
Jonathan Levin, Student Body President





## 72<sup>ND</sup> STUDENT SENATE Senate Resolution

Resolution #: 12

**Primary Sponsor:** Little

**Co-Sponsor(s):** Soto, Wang, Murcia, Boole

**Date:** [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

**Whereas:** The Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to initiate the Investigative Board on Presidential Appointments on June 23rd, 2020 following multiple allegations of unprofessional interview conduct, failure to interview all candidates for open positions within SGA, and other alleged misconduct, and,

**Whereas:** The scope of the Investigative Board was expanded on September 23rd, 2020 to allow the board to investigate broader allegations of misconduct within the Executive Branch, and,

**Whereas:** The Investigative board collected evidence and/or testimony from Katherine Gipalo (Former Senator), John Alvarez (Former Senator), Emily Pacenti (Applicant for Senate), Nastassia Janvier (Student Body Vice President), Jonathan Marcus (Senator), Gabriella Hinks (Former Senator), Ash Soto (Senator), Ashley Gonzalez (Senator), Jonathan Levin (Student Body President), Rawan Abhari (Executive Cabinet Member), Matthew Harris (Applicant for the Executive Cabinet), Abril Hunter (Senator), Christian Sam (Senator), Ahmad Daraldik (Senator), Sam Jacobsen (Senior Class Treasurer), Deia Medley-Neyra (Former Senator), Travis Waters (Former Senator), and,

**Whereas:** Katherine Gipalo applied for an open Senate Seat on May 13th, 2020 and received no contact from the Executive Branch until after she had received the nomination on May 19th. She was never interviewed, and,

**Whereas:** John “Jake” Alvarez applied for the open COSSPP Senate Seat 3 on May 19th, 2020 in which he received one phone call from the Executive Branch informing him he would receive an email regarding the position. The forwarding letter published that same day listed another candidate for COSSPP Seat 3. Student Body President Levin notified Mr. Alvarez that he would be reconsidered for COSSPP Senate Seat 1 and was forwarded for that seat on June 15th, 2020, and,

**Whereas:** Jonathan Marcus applied for Senate on two separate occasions during the Summer of 2020. His first application was for Arts and Sciences Seat 6, submitted on May 14th. Mr. Marcus received a phone call later that evening from Rawan Abhari, who at the time was a private

citizen, to confirm information on his application. On May 19th, Mr. Marcus received a second phone call from Student Body Vice President Janiver, and was asked two questions over the span of a four minute phone call. After not receiving the nomination for this Senate seat, Mr. Marcus applied for a different open seat (Arts and Sciences 4) on June 7th, 2020. For this application, Mr. Marcus received no interview nor any contact from the Executive Branch. Gabriella Hinks was then confirmed to Arts and Sciences Seat 4 on June 17, 2020, and,

**Whereas:** Rawan Abhari submitted an application for the position of Secretary of Student Life on May 18th, 2020. Ms. Abhari was later forwarded to become the Secretary of Internal Affairs. During her interview with Student Body President Levin and Student Body Vice President Janiver, she was asked to “sing a part of a song that resonated with me and my feelings” by the Vice President. Furthermore, Secretary Abhari was asked by President Levin on May 18th to reach out to Mr. Marcus and ask questions about his application. She was confirmed as the Secretary of Internal Affairs on May 20th, and,

**Whereas:** Matthew Harris applied to the position of the Secretary of Internal Affairs on April 22nd, 2020 and was asked to sing in an interview with Student Body President Levin and Student Body Vice President Janvier, and,

**Whereas:** Emily Pacenti applied for an open Senate Seat on June 25th, 2020 and was never contacted nor interviewed, and,

**Whereas:** Ash Soto submitted an application for the position of College of Music Senate Seat 1 on July 9th, 2020. They were offered an interview by Chief of Staff Max Roca and Secretary of Appointments Emany Desinor, and then they received an email from Desinor on August 6th, 2020, explaining that they were being offered the seat. In the email, it explained that the interview to be confirmed would take place during the Rules and Calendar committee meeting on September 2nd, 2020 at 6pm, and if confirmed, the senate meeting at 7:30pm that same day. When they attended the Rules and Calendar committee meeting for their interview, Pro-Tempore Alexander Harmon made applicant Soto aware that they never received any documentation about their confirmation for the seat taking place that night. All they did was apologize to applicant Soto and let them know that they may be interviewed the next week, but that they were not sure, and

**Whereas:** Throughout this process, the Investigative Board never received any minutes from meetings of the Executive Cabinet, despite requesting them on multiple occasions, obstructing the Board’s ability to understand the full scope of the Executive Branch’s decision-making process, and,

**Whereas:** The Executive Branch's unwillingness to provide minutes to the Senate may impede future attempts to conduct oversight, one of the most essential functions of the Legislative Branch.

**Be it resolved by the Seventy-second Student Senate at Florida State University that:** The Investigative Board believes that Jonathan Marcus' rights, as outlined in Chapter 304.3 of Student Body Statutes, were violated as he did not receive any contact from the Executive Branch following his application submitted on June 7th, 2020, and the Board encourages him to seek some form of compensation for these damages within the Judicial System of the FSU Student Government Association.

**Be it further resolved that:** The Investigative Board believes that Abril Hunter's rights, as outlined in Chapter 304.3 of Student Body Statutes, were violated as she did not receive any contact from the Executive Branch following her application submitted on July 6th, 2020, and the Board encourages her to seek some form of compensation for these damages within the Judicial System of the FSU Student Government Association.

**Be it further resolved that:** The Investigative Board believes that Katherine Gipalo's rights, as outlined in Chapter 304.3 of Student Body Statutes, were violated as she only received contact upon being forwarded by the Executive Branch on May 19th without an interview. This presents a clear violation of statutes and Supreme Court case Ravelo v. Wilson.

**Be it further resolved that:** The Investigative Board believes that the Executive Branch did not follow the basic questionnaire and professional form required by student body statutes 304.3 and 304.4, as well as Supreme Court case Ravelo v. Wilson in multiple cases.

**Be it further resolved that:** The Investigative Board believes that 203.3 was violated, as the cabinet meetings "held under the auspices of Student Government Association" were not open to the public. Furthermore, 203.6 was violated as no minutes were published nor made available to the investigative board upon request.

**Be it further resolved that:** The Investigative Board believes that the Student Body President violated statute 205.3.E.1 by compelling two individuals to misrepresent themselves as student government officers when they were not: Rawan Abhari and Abby Salter.

**Be it further resolved that:** The Investigative Board believes that the Student Body President violated statute 304.3.C.1 by failing to interview candidates after they have applied for a position in student government: John "Jake" Alvarez and Gabriella Hinks.

**Be it further resolved that:** There is an undeniable pattern of candidates for open Student Senate Seats not receiving an interview, as mandated by Student Body Statute 304.3 and Ravelo V. Wilson. Furthermore, as stated in his written response to the Investigative Board's questionnaire, it is highly concerning that President Levin admitted to not being aware of candidates failing to be interviewed. While the early months of the current administration were chaotic and disorganized due to COVID, this cannot excuse a violation of statutes. The Board believes that President Levin has violated the precedent established in Ravelo, and having forwarded candidates before all candidates had been interviewed, has also violated 304.3C.5.

**Be it further resolved that:** In a memorandum sent on June 23rd, 2020, Abby Salter listed herself as Acting Chief Justice under the direction of Student Body President Levin. Student Body Statute 205.3E.1 states "no officer or employee will willfully misrepresent themselves while acting in an official capacity", and Statute 205.3D states "no officer or employee shall knowingly aid, advise, encourage, or threaten another officer or employee of Student Government Association or student to act in violation of this chapter". Abby Salter admitted to the Summer Judiciary Committee on July 14th, 2020 that she did not believe the title Acting Chief Justice was appropriate for the memorandum and that she had been told to use that title by President Levin. The Investigative Board believes President Levin has violated 205.3D by explicitly instructing Abby Salter to represent herself as Acting Chief Justice rather than Appointed Chief Justice, as she was never confirmed to the position by the full Senate.

**Be it further resolved that:** Two separate individuals have come to the Investigative Board and claimed that Vice President Janvier had asked them to sing during their interviews. Matthew Harris "was taken aback but tried not to act surprised" when "told to sing." He was "confused and beyond uncomfortable." This was further corroborated by both Secretary Rawan Abhari and President Levin. Secretary Abhari testified that she was asked to sing and that she was aware of others. President Levin responded "yes" when asked "Have you ever witnessed an applicant for an SGA position be asked to sing in an interview?" President Levin claims that the question asked during the interviews was "Please sing us a song about our current mood and feeling of this season in your life", yet, Vice President Janvier claims that the question was "What song describes your current season in life? It may be geared towards the pandemic, the semester or anything you feel comfortable with. If you would like you may choose to sing that song." President Levin's recollection of the question, while different from Vice President Janvier's, is corroborated by the statements given by Matthew Harris and Secretary Abhari. The Investigative Board believes that Vice President Janvier violated statute 304.3C.4 by failing to offer interviews in "a standardized and professional form." Furthermore, the imbalance between powerful elected officials and candidates seeking appointments within student government is vast. No matter the intention, this conduct does not rise to the standard that our Student Government should hold itself to.

**Be it further resolved that:** For future interviews, the Executive Branch should use the "forwarding interview questions" listed on the SGA website as a guide. The Senate should continue to conduct oversight over the Executive Branch to ensure that all interviews conducted by the Student Government are held to the enumerated standard of professionalism.

**Be it further resolved that:** The Senate should take steps to ensure that the Executive Branch abides by Statute 304.3.C.1 and interviews all applicants for SGA positions, to encourage the FSU Student Body in general to engage with Student Government.

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

Alex Harmon, Student Senate President  
Renee Wang, Student Senate Pro-Tempore  
John Thrasher, President of Florida State University  
Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Angela L. Chong, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs  
Dr. Brandon Bowden, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs  
Jonathan Levin, Student Body President  
Nastassia Janvier, Student Body Vice President