

**Introduced By:** Vice Chair Boisson and Vice Chair Bertram  
**Sponsored By:** Coordinator of Sustainability and Innovation Harris, Director of Communications Fletcher, Dr. Bohlen, Dr. Plate, SG President Hall, The Wetlands Club, Defend Our Future  
**Contact:** sga\_ugst1@ucf.edu and sga\_ba3@ucf.edu  
**First Reading:** Adopted in Committee;  
June 17, 2021  
**Committee Action:** Passed 10-0-0  
**Second Reading:** June 24, 2021;  
Passed 35-0-0  
**Third Reading:** July 1, 2021  
**Final Vote:** Passed 31-0-0



**University of Central Florida  
Fifty-Third Student Body Senate  
Resolution 53-10**

[Resolution Encouraging the University of Central Florida to Reduce the Use of Plastic Confetti on Campus]

**WHEREAS**, In a newsletter published by the University of Central Florida College of Sciences, it states “The presence of microplastics in aquatic systems can not only damage macro-organisms – such as fish, amphibians, and birds – but can also disrupt highly sensitive biogeochemical cycles driven by microbial communities.”;

**WHEREAS**, “Unfortunately, the accumulation of microplastics in the form of confetti, glitter, and larger plastic litter has not only affected the Student Union Cypress Dome and caused the vegetation to lose its beauty, but it has the potential to sicken or drive away the fauna that call the cypress dome home.”;

**WHEREAS**, Conventional plastic materials are very resistant to degradation in general. The longevity of plastics is estimated to be hundreds or even thousands of years depending on properties of the plastics as well as the surrounding environmental conditions (PlasticsEurope 2019). Plastics can break down into microscopic pieces but they will still retain their properties;

**WHEREAS**, There are 2 kinds of microplastics, primary and secondary. Primary microplastics originally entered the environment at their 5mm or smaller size, while secondary microplastics are also 5mm or smaller but are pieces from larger plastics that have been broken down in the environment. Both are very prevalent in nature. Glitter is a primary microplastic and can break down even further to become secondary microplastics;

**WHEREAS**, UCF is already striving to be a zero waste campus by 2050 and integrate sustainability across all disciplines. This is being done through working with UCF Recycling Services to implement comprehensive waste reduction programs on campus. Current initiatives yield a recycling rate of about 35%, diverting almost 800 tons of materials from landfills each year;

**WHEREAS**, There is a prevalent use of confetti on campus during the graduation seasons. Not only is it an issue environmentally, but it requires other offices to work extensively to clean campus such as UCF Facilities and the volunteer work of many student-led groups;

**WHEREAS**, We encourage students to seek out alternative forms of plastic confetti with paper materials, biodegradable options, or not using it at all. In order to continue appreciating the beauty of the cypress dome habitat and other areas of campus, we need to take care of them and ensure their right to a clean environment;

**WHEREAS**, this is not a punitive resolution, but instead wishes to achieve a culture on campus where students do not use plastic glitter and seek the alternative instead, either on their own accord or through materials provided to them;

**WHEREAS**, We, UCF Student Government, will supply biodegradable options including naturally colorful plant materials (leaves, flower petals, lavender buds, seeds), dyed epsom salt, and biodegradable tissue paper/paper products.

**WHEREAS**, Previous UCF Student Governments have attempted to distribute biodegradable confetti/glitter on campus and we would like to continue and promote this before and during graduation seasons, as well as educate students on why this is a better option. This can include tabling, posters, and advertising the distribution of biodegradable glitter through social media;

**WHEREAS**, This could also be done through collaboration with the UCF Arboretum, RSO sponsors, various branches of Student Government, and other representative entities on campus; and

**WHEREAS**, This can lead us to a minimal waste culture on campus.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Fifty-Third Student Senate of the University of Central Florida encourages the University of Central Florida to drastically reduce the use of plastic glitters and confetti on campus;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, The Director of Communications and Outreach of Student Government will oversee, create, and promote educational materials and graphics, highlighting the destructive nature that plastic glitters can cause to campus ecosystems, as well as posts promoting where to pick up alternatives forms of plastic glitter;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, The Sustainability and Innovation Coordinator will research alternatives to plastic confetti, and oversee the distribution of biodegradable confetti alternatives;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Fifty-Third Student Senate of the University of Central Florida strongly recommends that future Student Government Senate sessions and Administrations adopt this policy of plastic glitter and confetti use reduction; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the UCF SG Executive Branch, UCF SG Director of Communications and Outreach Fletcher, UCF SG Sustainability and Innovation Coordinator Harris, The Wetlands Club, Defend our Future, The President's Office, the UCF Arboretum, Dr. Richard Plate, and Dr. Patrick Bohlen.

#### AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES



Chinyere Anunobi  
Senate President

07/06/21

Date



Christopher Slaughter  
Senate President Pro Tempore

07/07/21

Date