

**Introduced By:** Black Caucus  
**Sponsored By:** SISTUHS Inc., The National Society of Black Women in Medicine, Sigma Epsilon Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Black Law Students Association, Big Sister Little Sister Mentoring Program, Color Me Queer, Progressive Black Men Inc., African Student Organization  
**Contact:** sgblackcaucus@ucf.edu  
**First Reading:** June 1, 2023  
**Committee Action:** Passed 6-0-1  
**Second Reading:** June 8, 2023;  
Passed 30-0-3  
**Third Reading:** June 15, 2023  
**Final Vote:** Passed 32-0-1



**University of Central Florida  
Fifty-Fifth Student Body Senate  
Resolution 55-02**


[Resolution Advocating to Make Juneteenth a UCF Holiday]

**WHEREAS**, Senate Rule 2.04(G)(1) states the Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee shall pass measures advocating on behalf of the student body regarding student, and university affairs;  
**WHEREAS**, Article 2.05(C) of the Student Body Constitution states that the Student Body Senate shall express the will and sentiments of the Student Body Senate through legislation;  
**WHEREAS**, The following clauses are sourced from The Emancipation Proclamation, which declared all those enslaved as free persons, and was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1862 and enacted January 1, 1863;  
**WHEREAS**, African Americans residing in the Confederacy still remained enslaved, gradually being liberated through the advocacy of the proclamation through soldiers of the Union Army;  
**WHEREAS**, The final enslaved African-Americans became free in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865, as the army declared all enslaved persons free by the executive order of the President of the United States;  
**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth spread from Texas to the rest of the nation and is the longest-running African-American holiday;  
**WHEREAS**, The Juneteenth National Independence Day Act  
**WHEREAS**, Juneteenth was first recognized on June 19, 1865, which is the proper date when slaves were actually freed;  
**WHEREAS**, President Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law on June 19, 2021, as Juneteenth Day of Observance;  
**WHEREAS**, 13.6% of the United States population is Black/African-American;  
**WHEREAS**, 15.9% of the Florida population is Black/African American;  
**WHEREAS**, 9.7% of the University of Central Florida students are Black/African-American;  
**WHEREAS**, The University of Central Florida held its first Juneteenth celebration in June of 2020, spearheaded by the Black Student Union;  
**WHEREAS**, The University of Central Florida continues to celebrate Juneteenth; and  
**WHEREAS**, Currently, the University of Central Florida does not recognize Juneteenth as a holiday.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That it is the opinion of the Fifty-Fifth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida that the University of Central Florida should improve its mission of diversity and inclusion by re-evaluating the academic calendar expeditiously and make Juneteenth a university holiday; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to UCF Ginsburg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement Vice President Dr. Andrea Guzman Oliver, the UCF Ginsburg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement Assistant Vice President Dr. Edwanna Andrews, the UCF Black Faculty and Staff Association President Darryl Gordon, the UCF Black Faculty and Staff Association Vice President Dr. Larry Walker, Florida Board of Education, State University System of Florida, University of South Florida Student Government, University of Miami Student Government, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Student Government, Bethune Cookman University Student Government, Florida State University Student Government, University of Florida Student Government, Florida International University Student Government, Edward Waters College Student Government, Valencia College Student Government, Florida Memorial University Student Government, Florida Atlantic University Student Government, UCF Faculty Senate, Provost Michael D. Johnson, Florida Board of Governors, Chair of the Board of Trustees Alex Martins, Chancellor of Florida State University System Ray Rodrigues and Vice President for Student Success and Well-Being Dr. Adrienne Frame.

**AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sierra Holmes  
Senate President

06/19/2023  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Akhila Damarla  
Senate President Pro Tempore

06/20/2023  
Date