

**Introduced By:** Chair DiChiara  
**Sponsored By:** CRT Chair Kylie Cimillo  
**Contact:** sgacie5@ucf.edu  
**First Reading:** Adopted in Committee;  
October 11, 2023  
**Committee Action:** Passed 7-0-0  
**Second Reading:** October 12, 2023  
**Final Vote:** Passed 39-0-0



**University of Central Florida  
Fifty-Fifth Student Body Senate  
Proclamation 55-06**

[Proclamation Recognizing October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, as National Transfer Student Week]

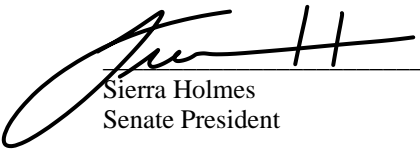
**WHEREAS**, Senate Rule 2.04(G)(1) states that the Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee shall pass measures advocating on behalf of the student body regarding student and university affairs at the University of Central Florida (UCF);  
**WHEREAS**, Senate Rule 5.01(D)(1) states that Proclamations are defined as measures recognizing, celebrating, or condemning extraordinary events, organizations, or individuals on behalf of all Student Government Agents;  
**WHEREAS**, National Transfer Student Week (NTSW) celebrates the accomplishments and achievements of transfer students and those who support them in their journeys. UCF is proud to celebrate transfer students and has organized events for current and future transfer Knights throughout the week;  
**WHEREAS**, Throughout the week, each college will have an informational session for their programs with addition to their main event, U-Knight the Knights;  
**WHEREAS**, U-Knight the Knights is an event that serves as a celebration for the week with the attendance of all UCF students;  
**WHEREAS**, UCF has the largest number of transfer students among all of Florida's public universities and has been recognized as a leader in transfer student success with DirectConnect to UCF, which guarantees admission to UCF for students with an associate degree or articulated degree from one of six partner state colleges;  
**WHEREAS**, According to UCF, of the 69,684 students enrolled for Fall 2023, 26,855 were transfer students;  
**WHEREAS**, DirectConnect to UCF is a program that guarantees admission to the University of Central Florida (UCF) for students who earn an associate degree from one of the program's partner state colleges. The program also provides support and resources, including: Advising, Coaching, Enrollment assistance;  
**WHEREAS**, The six DirectConnect partner institutions are: College of Central Florida, Daytona State College, Eastern Florida State College, Lake-Sumter State College, Seminole State College, and Valencia College;  
**WHEREAS**, UCF itself has many initiatives including;  
**WHEREAS**, The Transfer-Student Research and Integration Program (TRIP) is a 2-year scholarship program (up to \$8,000) for life science students who have completed an A.A. degree at a state college prior to starting at UCF as Biology, Biotechnology, or Biomedical Science majors;  
**WHEREAS**, The Lumina Foundation has granted the Florida Consortium of Metropolitan Research Universities — which includes UCF, the Florida International University (FIU) and the University of South Florida (USF) — \$400,000 to reduce transfer shock, shorten time to degree completion and align curriculum for transfer students;  
**WHEREAS**, In July 2021, UCF's success was recognized by the Helios Education Foundation with a \$1.25 million grant to expand transfer student success over the next four years as part of the university's role in the Florida Consortium of Metropolitan Research Universities with FIU and USF;  
**WHEREAS**, UCF's Transfer Connect program works to further enhance transfer student success, which provides comprehensive support, engagement, and resources to prospective and enrolled transfer students, both in-person and virtually;  
**WHEREAS**, In 2022, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities selected UCF as part of its new Transfer Student Success and Equity Intensive. The program aims to ensure students from communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic can access, persist through and realize their higher education aspirations;  
**WHEREAS**, The initiative aims to assist more than 5,000 transfer students in completing their degrees in two years by 2027. This includes more than 2,000 Hispanic students, nearly 700 Black students and more than 3,000 additional Pell-eligible student completions;  
**WHEREAS**, The Transfer Center is the hub for all transfer students on-campus to get assistance, meet with their Success Coaches, access opportunities and educational experiences, and interact with fellow transfer students;  
**WHEREAS**, The PeerKnights Coaching program is to empower students to be strong academically and integrate into the campus community. It provides students with a coordinated care network of peer coaches and professionals. The PeerKnights Coaching Program offers support to students with varying needs, such as choosing a major, transitioning into the university environment, or building up their academic skill set; and  
**WHEREAS**, Within the PeerKnights Program there is a cohort of coaches that focus on transfer student and their needs. Transfer PeerKnights Coaches are former transfer students who work with the Transfer Center to support a seamless transition to UCF for new and incoming transfer students. Transfer PeerKnights Coaches aid with transition coaching and guidance by providing ongoing one-on-one transition support to fellow transfer students. Topics covered in coaching sessions include navigating the university

environment, discovering academic resources and services, identifying involvement opportunities, and providing specific referrals to campus resources when appropriate.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Fifty-Fifth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida that the University of Central Florida proclaims the celebration of National Transfer Week during October 16<sup>th</sup> –20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and supports the events being hosted during the week, in hopes to champion transfer student success; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Proclamation be sent to the Transfer Center, Associate Director of the Transfer Center Bernard Huggins, Vice Provost for Student Learning and Academic Success and Dean for the College of Undergraduate Studies Dr. Theodorea Berry, Senior Vice President for Student Success Paul Dosal, Director of Academic Support Services Angelia Jones Smith, Director of Academic Support Services Dr. Deborah Bradford, Director of Communications and Marketing for UCF Connect Martin Malpica, Transfer Knights, Tau Sigma National Honor Society, and UCF President Cartwright.

#### AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES



Sierra Holmes  
Senate President

11/08/2023

Date



Brandon Greenaway  
Student Body President

11/9/2023

Date