

Introduced By: Chair Teodorescu
Sponsored By: Senator Metellus
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First Reading: Adopted in Committee; June 11, 2025
Committee Action: Passed 11-0-1
Second Reading: June 11, 2025
Final Vote: Passed 42-1-1



**University of Central Florida
Fifty-Seventh Student Body Senate
Proclamation 57-03**


[Proclamation Recognizing June 19, 2025, as Juneteenth]

WHEREAS, Senate Rule 2.03(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 denounce extraordinary events, organizations, or individuals on behalf of all Student Government Agents;
WHEREAS, Juneteenth honors the history and resilience of African Americans who fought for freedom and equality for generations;
WHEREAS, On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all enslaved individuals in the United States were to be freed;
WHEREAS, The proclamation was formally enacted on January 1, 1863;
WHEREAS, Although implemented in the United States, many enslaved African Americans, especially in Confederate regions of the country, remained unaware and enslaved until Union forces arrived to secure their liberation;
WHEREAS, On June 19, 1865, the final enslaved African American was freed in Galveston Bay, Texas;
WHEREAS, Juneteenth was first commemorated in 1866 by formerly enslaved African Americans to recognize their newfound liberty;
WHEREAS, Juneteenth attained nationwide recognition and stands as the oldest continuously observed African American holiday;
WHEREAS, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law on June 17, 2021, officially recognizing June 19th as Juneteenth Day of Observance;
WHEREAS, Black/African Americans comprise 13.6% of the United States population;
WHEREAS, Black/African Americans constitute approximately 17% of Florida's population;
WHEREAS, Black/African Americans represent nearly 9% of the University of Central Florida's student population;
WHEREAS, In 2020, the University of Central Florida held its first Juneteenth celebration, led by vision and dedication of the Black Student Union;
WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a significant holiday for the UCF community in honoring its historical and cultural importance while reaffirming a commitment to equity and justice; and
WHEREAS, The University of Central Florida should support and celebrate Juneteenth.


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fifty-Seventh Student Body Senate of the University of Central Florida recognizes Juneteenth on June 19, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Proclamation be sent to the Black Student Union, African Student Organization, Office of Black/African American Student Success, SISTUHS Inc, The National Society of Black Women in Medicine, National Black Law Students Association, The National Pan-Hellenic Council, The John T. Washington Honor Society, Big Sister Little Sister Mentoring Program, Color Me Queer, Progressive Black Men Inc, National Society of Black Engineers, Big Sister Little Sister Mentoring Program, Black Men In Medicine, Black Student Awareness, Black Psychology Club, Black Undergraduate Kinesiology Association, Caribbean Students' Association, Club Kreyol, ColorMeQueer, Crown to Crown, FACES Modeling Troupe, Inc., Fanm Kreyol Inc., Gospel & Cultural Choir, Hazard Step Team, Jamaican Student Association, Men of Integrity, Multicultural Student Center, NAACP UCF, National Association of Black Accountants, National Association of Black Journalists, Neg Kreyol Inc., Progressive Black Men, Inc., ReKonstruktion Dance Troupe Inc., Royalty Dance Troupe, RUKUS Entertainment, SISTUHS, Inc., The Black Female Development Circle Inc., The National Council of Negro Women Inc., The Diversified Greek Council, Vice President for Student Success and Wellbeing Dr. Frame, Vice President for Access and Community Engagement Dr. Andrea Guzmán, Ginsburg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement Assistant Vice President Edwanna Andrews, and Multicultural Student Center Student Director Naisha Francois.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES


Kirsten Courts
Senate President

Date



Luci Blanco
Student Body President

06/16/25
Date