

**Introduced By:** Senator Norynne Caleja  
**Sponsored By:**  
**Contact:** sgacie3@ucf.edu  
**First Reading:** July 23, 2020  
**Committee Action:** Passed Favorably 10-0-0  
**Second Reading:** August 27th, 2020;  
Passed 51-0-0  
**Third Reading:** September 3rd, 2020  
**Final Vote:** Passed 44-0-2

**University of Central Florida  
Fifty-Second Student Body Senate  
Resolution 52-50**

[Resolution Calling for UCF Campus Leaders to Proactively Address and Condemn All Forms of  
COVID-19-Related Anti-Asian Sentiments]

**WHEREAS**, Senate Rule 2.03(G) (1) states that the Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee is to 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 (C) (2) states that a Resolution pertains to every measure expressing the sentiment of the Student Senate;

**WHEREAS**, Asian/Pacific Islander American communities are suffering acts of discrimination, hate crimes, and microaggressions due to fears of COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, 64,800 Asian/Pacific Islander Americans account for 5.2 percent of the population in Orange County, Florida;

**WHEREAS**, 4,436 Asian/Pacific Islander Americans account for 6.4 percent of the student population in the University of Central Florida;

**WHEREAS**, The use of anti-Asian terminology and rhetoric related to COVID-19, such as the “Chinese Virus”, “Wuhan Virus”, and “Kung-flu”, have perpetuated anti-Asian stigma;

**WHEREAS**, Since the outbreak of the pandemic in January 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in reports of hate crimes and incidents against Asians and people of Asian descent;

**WHEREAS**, According to an incident-reporting center called STOP AAPI HATE, founded by a coalition of Asian-American groups, there have been over 1,800 cases of anti-Asian harassment or violence related to COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, Asian/Pacific Islander Americans are being harassed, assaulted, and scapegoated for the COVID-19 pandemic due to the increased use of anti-Asian rhetoric;

**WHEREAS**, The Asian/Pacific Islander American identifying-registered student organizations at University of Central Florida have created initiatives as a congregation to fight racism against Asians and people of Asian descent;

**WHEREAS**, The Asian Pacific American Coalition at University of Central Florida published a statement of solidarity against anti-Asian racism and xenophobia on February 7, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, The Phi Chapter of Pi Delta Psi Fraternity, Inc. at the University of Central Florida led a social media campaign, #IAmNotAVirus, in conjunction with the Asian Pacific American Coalition and the Asian Student Association registered student organizations in May 2020 to raise awareness of anti-Asian discriminations and to amplify the voices of the Asian/Pacific Islander American communities at large;

**WHEREAS**, The Elite Epsilon Chapter of Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. at the University of Central Florida addressed and condemned the anti-Asian sentiments related to COVID-19 in June 2020 through their social media platforms;

**WHEREAS**, Senator Norynne Caleja contacted campus-wide leaders from Office of the Provost, Office of the President, Student Development and Enrollment Services, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Institutional Equity, Ombuds Office, and Social Justice and Advocacy to proactively address and condemn COVID-19 related anti-Asian sentiments via email;

**WHEREAS**, the Student Body Advocacy Committee welcomed the guest appearance of Dr. S. Kent Butler at the meeting on July 8, 2020 to present initiatives from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion in regard to the topics of combatting anti-Asian discrimination, promoting racial equity and amplifying diversity in the University;  
**WHEREAS**, Dr. S. Kent Butler and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion plan on releasing a survey on July 15, 2020 on the University’s performance regarding diversity and inclusion, generating conversations among Deans and Chairs on the concept and image of diversity and inclusion from faculty/staff level, and creating a student advisory council to be seen as the University’s “ambassadors” for minority programming;  
**WHEREAS**, Senator Norynne Caleja constructed a virtual forum on July 22, 2020 with UCF campus leaders such as President Alexander Cartwright, Dr. Maribeth Ehasz, and Dr. Edwanna Andrews to create a space for the Asian/Pacific Islander American identifying-registered student organizations to address their concerns related to COVID-19;  
**WHEREAS**, In order to move toward racial equity, changes regarding representation must be made in order to establish and acknowledge all communities and races within the University;  
**WHEREAS**, The importance of creating and providing space for all communities and races by amplifying their voices through racial equity is beneficial to the overall experience and atmosphere of the University;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that it is the opinion of the Fifty-Second Student Senate of the University of Central Florida to call on campus-wide leaders to address and denounce anti-Asian sentiment in any form.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the University condemns all manifestations or expressions of racism, xenophobia, discrimination, anti-Asian sentiment, scapegoating, and ethnic intolerance;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the University commits itself in building a more inclusive, diverse and tolerant campus by combating discrimination that put Asian/Pacific Islander American students/faculty at risk;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to President Alexander Cartwright, Interim Provost Michael Johnson, Dr. S. Kent Butler, Dr. Maribeth Ehasz, Dr. Edwanna Andrews, The Board of Trustees, and SG President Sabrina La Rosa.

**AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES**

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Fritz Farrow  
Senate President

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Natalia Correa-Ferro  
Senate President Pro Tempore

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Date

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Date