



**The University of West Florida Student Government Association
In Support of Restorative Justice through Black Lives Matter**

Resolution: 16-17 RS II

Author(s): Student Government Association Senator Leonie Dupuis & Student Government Association Senator Alex Francois

To Read as follows:

WHEREAS, the University of West Florida's institutional values include caring, inclusiveness, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, the University of West Florida's Diversity Plan encourages members of the community to get empowered, get educated, get involved, and get help; and

WHEREAS, the voice of the University of West Florida's black students does matter and is of significance to student body leaders as well as University of West Florida administrators; and

WHEREAS, race-catalyzed violence in the United States has escalated since the Trayvon Martin case as exhibited by the recent riots Charlotte in response to shooting of a man with his hands in the air, an international symbol for surrender; and

WHEREAS, 102 unarmed black people were killed by police in 2015- five times the rate of white people; and

WHEREAS, the University of Vermont's Student Government Association exemplarily sponsored a Black Lives Matter flag in support of students' struggle with violence and search for justice; and

WHEREAS, the Student Government Association is taxed with communicating the needs of students, including black students, with administrators.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Government Association, on behalf of the University of West Florida Student Body: write and send a letter to all University of West Florida students proclaiming SGA's support of the Black Lives Matter movement, create a social media campaign emphasizing SGA's support for black students and the resources available to students who may be affected by the current racial tensions and violence psychologically, emotionally, or physically, and hang a banner, or an equally large visual display, within one of the University Commons' highly-trafficked areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University of West Florida Student Government Association wholeheartedly supports the Black Lives Matter movement and encourages University of West Florida administrators to publicly proclaim their support as well.

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be given to Student Body President Jake Hebert, the Black Student Union, the Interfraternal Programming Board, President Dr. Judy Bense, all members of the President's Cabinet, and the Faculty Senators.

Student Body President

Senate Pro-Tempore