

Resolution: 18-19 RS VIII

Authors: Senator Hunter Lyons, Senator Devon Miller

To read as follows:

WHEREAS, the University of West Florida Commons was built in 1969, serving fewer than 100 students; and

WHEREAS, there are currently almost 12,000 students in 2019, and a long-term goal is to continue to expand; and

WHEREAS, the Commons has been expanded to 126,000 square feet to accommodate UWF's growth, now possessing meeting and event spaces for student organizations, administrative offices, dining facilities, a bookstore, and a conference center; and

WHEREAS, the No. 1 priority listed on the 2011-2021 Campus Master Plan is "development of the University Park District," of which a central feature was to be the Student Union, then planned to be a 160,000 square foot facility; and

WHEREAS, that facility was anticipated to "become the center of campus," which would "complement the academic mission of the University"; and

WHEREAS, the University will be drafting a new Master Plan in the near future that more accurately aligns with the University's current priorities; and

WHEREAS, student engagement is of paramount importance to cultivating and retaining student leaders, who in turn help their peers grow and learn beyond the classroom; and

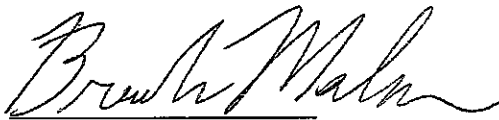
WHEREAS, current infrastructure of this variety (i.e., the Commons) is intended to provide a hub for high impact community service, leadership development, employment or career development, and campus involvement opportunities; and

WHEREAS, other postsecondary institutions are working to make progress in this sector; in order to remain competitive, it is imperative that we continue to update this infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, many options are being considered for how to address this, such as the creation of a standalone Student Union, or further renovations and expansions of the Commons; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution serves as a reiteration of our support, as expressed in 12-13 RS III, for the expansion of the Commons, the creation of a Student Union, or other such development of involvement infrastructure as deemed necessary.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Government Association supports the ongoing commitment of the Commons in advocating for further development to support students of University of West Florida.



Mr. Brandon Malone  
Student Body President



Ms. Samantha Lubowiecki  
Senate Pro Tempore