

Resolution in Favor of the Construction of a New Music Center

WHEREAS, the School of Music has a vibrant music program, offering undergraduate, masters, and doctoral degrees in music; as well as joint degrees with several other programs at the University of Florida and large-enrollment general education courses in the humanities; and

WHEREAS, resulting from overall outdated design and years of insufficient funding for maintenance, the Music Building, built in the late 1960s, does not meet basic working and studying conditions; and

WHEREAS, the building lacks adequate acoustics and a recent scientific study has concluded that professional musicians are at higher risk of contracting hearing disorders as compared with the general population, and

WHEREAS, the open design of the building makes it difficult to maintain indoor climate control (with office temperatures of 48° F reported), the building may pose a health hazard to faculty and students; and

WHEREAS these problems have been well-documented by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), an accreditation institution, and by a report commissioned by the University of Florida's Physical Plant Division in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the renovation costs to bring the Music Building to 21st-century standards, including the addition of a much needed Recital Hall, and to foster the goals of preeminence, are estimated to be nearly as expensive as a new building; and

WHEREAS, state funds for significant maintenance projects have not been available and it is unlikely that additional funds will be forthcoming, and as potential donors have indicated that they prefer to contribute to new, named construction;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT:

The Faculty Senate of the University of Florida, on behalf of the faculty of the University of Florida, supports the construction of a new Music Center, compatible with the demands of the music program at the University of Florida, and the expected standards of NASM and similar AAU universities.