

**Faculty Senate Special Meeting
October 27, 2022**

Proposed amendments to Noticed Resolution:

From: Cellinese, Nico (FLMNH)

Add:

Whereas the Presidential Search Committee included three faculty members who were not able to confer with the Faculty Senate and therefore, did not fairly represent the University Faculty body in the final selection outcome.

From: Peters, Jorg (ENG)

1. change

~~were unwilling to be named as finalists due to the 21-day public notification requirement;~~

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were willing to be considered for the position;

rationale: the cause for the candidates' unwillingness is not documented and we do not know who they are

2. drop paragraph

~~Whereas the selection process has the potential to cause significant professional harm to well-qualified candidates~~

~~if their identities are disclosed at the 21-day mark, thus increasing the likelihood that a less-suitable candidate who does not similarly fear disclosure will advance;~~

rationale:

we have no knowledge of the effect on well-qualified candidates since we do not know who they are

3. add paragraph (just before "Be it resolved that ...)

Whereas no candidate who would permit themselves to be put forth in such a hiring process is acceptable to the faculty.

rationale:

A president of the University of Florida must wholeheartedly embrace the process of public scrutiny and avoid the appearance of 'no-bid contracts'

From: **Witmer, Gene & Vander Zanden, Hannah** (CLAS)

Preamble:

~~The Faculty Senate of the University of Florida endeavors to work with the Board of Trustees to ensure the proper succession of the Presidency of the University. In doing so, the Senate must consider the well being of all students, faculty, and staff in addition to the numerous intensive responsibilities that come with being an effective President of an R1 research institution. The next President should come already equipped to lead an institution of this caliber rather than aiming to learn on the job. Anything less will result in a lack of faith in leadership. The process of the thirteenth Presidential search, conducted in accordance with the updated Florida State Bill 520, has undermined the trust and confidence of the University of Florida Faculty Senate in the selection of the sole finalist Dr. Ben Sasse.~~
Resolution:

~~Whereas the thirteenth University of Florida Presidential Search was conducted in accordance with SB 520 and a sole finalist was selected and presented to the University at large;
Whereas at the Faculty Senate meeting at the University of Florida on October 20, 2022, Senate members were informed that multiple well-qualified candidates who are leaders at higher education institutions were unwilling to be named as finalists due to the 21-day public notification requirement;
Whereas the selection process has prevented the University of Florida Faculty as a whole from being informed about other candidates and their qualifications for the job;
Whereas the selection process has the potential to cause significant professional harm to well-qualified candidates if their identities are disclosed at the 21-day mark, thus increasing the likelihood that a less suitable candidate who does not similarly fear disclosure will advance;~~

WHEREAS the thirteenth University of Florida Presidential Search was conducted in accordance with SB 520, allowing the process to be hidden from public review until the last 21 days of the search, at which point Senator Ben Sasse was selected and presented to the University at large as the sole finalist;

WHEREAS it has been disclosed that multiple well-qualified candidates who are leaders at major higher education institutions were unwilling to be named as finalists unless privileged to be the sole finalist announced to the public;

WHEREAS notwithstanding his academic qualifications, Senator Sasse is not and has not been in a leadership position at a major research university, contrary to the Senate resolution of May 5, 2022 that stipulates that the thirteenth President should have "successful administrative experience at an AAU/R-1 university";

WHEREAS the selection process has, further, created at the very least the appearance of inappropriate political influence in a decision with momentous consequences for the future of this university, yet faculty, staff, and students have been given no appropriate or adequate evidence to counter this appearance;

WHEREAS the announcement of Senator Sasse as the sole candidate has caused unprecedented opposition and anger among faculty, students, staff, and alumni, a reaction that was arguably foreseeable by the search committee;

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees is appointed to act as fiduciaries and must consider the best interests of the University;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Florida provides a vote of NO CONFIDENCE in the selection process of the thirteenth President of the University of Florida **as thus far conducted**.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida Faculty Senate requests that the Board of Trustees reject the search committee's recommendation that Senator Sasse stand as the sole finalist and reopen the search to enable stakeholders to have greater confidence in the process.