



*The Foundation for The Gator Nation*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RESOLUTION</b></p>
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**NUMBER: R06-31**

**Subject: Resolution for The Academic Enhancement Program**

**Date: December 1, 2006**

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida is Florida’s only university that is ranked in the top 50 universities in the nation, ranking 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation and 13<sup>th</sup> among public institutions, and University of Florida is the only university in Florida, public or private, that is a member of the Association of American Universities, a group of 60 of the most prestigious research universities in the nation;

**WHEREAS**, the students of Florida deserve to have access to a public university education that is among the very best in the country;

**WHEREAS**, a state that has one or more top ten universities benefits from the economic development that is facilitated and supported by the research and education offered by such university and the citizens of Florida deserve to reap these benefits;

**WHEREAS**, “100 Innovative ideas for Florida’s Future” calls for the state to commit to having a Top 10 public university in Florida;

**WHEREAS**, the University desires to take action to reduce the university's faculty-student ratio, which is 21/1 compared to 14/1 and 15/1 at peer institutions, and to hire additional academic counselors, taking into consideration these metrics at UF's highly regarded peer public institutions;

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida's tuition and fees are the second lowest in the Florida State University System, and the lowest by far of the other public research universities that are members of the Association of American Universities;

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida has committed to use funding raised from its proposed Academic Enhancement Program to hire 200 new faculty members and 100 new academic counselors, and for no other purpose;

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida has reviewed its proposed Academic Enhancement Program with student government before bringing this proposal to the Board of Governors or Legislature, the university has committed to provide meaningful opportunities to student government to have input into the Program, and the university has committed to be accountable for the Program;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Governors has unanimously approved the Academic Enhancement Program at the University of Florida, as a pilot for the State University System, and has made the Program a part of the Board of Governors' legislative agenda for 2007;

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida student government has adopted a resolution in support of the Academic Enhancement Program, with student input;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the University of Florida Board of Trustees, on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2006, does hereby adopt this resolution in support of the University of Florida Academic Enhancement Program and seeks the Legislature's approval.

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Manny Fernandez, Chair

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J. Bernard Machen, President