

# UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Antonio Farias joined the University in 2018 serving as senior advisor to the president, the University's first Chief Diversity Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Farias oversaw a university-wide effort to advance The Big I.D.E.A! - Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Access; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Farias focused on three main priorities: (i) amplifying UF's mission, to create the broadly diverse environment necessary to foster multicultural skills and perspectives in teaching and research for its students to contribute and succeed in the world of the 21st century, (ii) creating a sustainable and resilient network capable of supporting every Gator so they can thrive at UF and beyond, and (iii) shaping UF's climate and culture to foster the success of all Gators; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Farias successfully launched the network of Campus Diversity Liaisons, experts embedded in each college and business unit who are working to advance UF's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion priorities in a site-specific, intentional way; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Farias embedded Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion into core operational function by co-founding a UF Certificate in Multicultural Mentoring, launching a weekly podcast focused on belonging at UF, creating "culture talk" in collaboration with computer science students using technology to create a safe space to discuss diversity, and training faculty and staff members to have authentic inclusive "Crucial Conversations"; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Farias improved the institution's inclusive excellence and commitment to diversity in the interdisciplinary curriculum in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by identifying organizations for UF to join including AAAS SEACChange, and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities ASPIRE IChange Network, which are focused on diversity, equity and inclusion in STEM+.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Board of Trustees at its regular meeting this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021, does hereby recognize and commend Chief Diversity Officer, Mr. Antonio Farias for his contributions to the University of Florida and the Board of Trustees; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be included in the minutes of this meeting, and a copy be presented to Mr. Antonio Farias as a token of the Board's appreciation and admiration.

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Morteza "Mori" Hosseini, Chair

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W. Kent Fuchs, President and Corporate Secretary