

Student Senate Resolution Regarding the Four-Lane Extension of SW 24th Ave. Through
NATL

WHEREAS, the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory (NATL), a unique natural area composed of three ecosystems, was established in 1993 for the purpose of teaching students about ecology and biotic diversity, and is currently used by nine departments in four colleges; and

WHEREAS, UF Administration has yet to seek any input from students or faculty, including four land-use committees that should have been consulted to weigh the costs versus the benefits of an extension of SW 24th Avenue through NATL; and

WHEREAS, Ed Poppell, UF Vice President of Finance and Administration, has appointed a Focus Group whose mission is to consider the best ways to mitigate the effects of a road through NATL, not to consider whether or not a road should be constructed at all; and

WHEREAS, an extension of SW 24th Avenue would severely degrade NATL by consuming at least 3 acres directly while also isolating the main part of NATL from 1.6 acres that includes a sinkhole pond and from its present connection with Preservation Area 2; and

WHEREAS, no road through NATL is provided for in the University of Florida's Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, any extension of SW 24th Avenue to Archer Road would create much noise pollution and disturb classes studying in NATL; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the student body approves of the development of SW 24th Avenue from SW 34th Street to SW 43rd Street as a two-lane road and the student village concept envisioned by the SW 20th Avenue Charette; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the student body does not believe an extension of SW 24th Avenue from SW 34th Street to Archer Road through NATL to be in our best interest or in the long-term best interest of the University of Florida; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we urge UF Administration to withdraw its commitment, made to the Alachua County Commission and to the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization, to recommend an amendment to the University of Florida's Master Plan to provide right-of-way for an extension of SW 24th Avenue to Archer Road.