

Resolution of the University of South Florida Faculty Senate in opposition to legislation allowing two credits of computer coding courses to substitute for foreign language study (SB 104)

Whereas, the Faculty Senate of the University of South Florida (USF) is the primary faculty advisory body on matters pertaining to the welfare of the university; and

Whereas, the USF Faculty Senate is concerned about the global competitiveness and cross-cultural competence of its students; and

Whereas, those who study foreign languages enjoy a multitude¹ of cognitive², affective³, and social⁴ benefits, and are more competitive on a global scale; and

Whereas, the proposed legislation would require college system institutions and state universities to accept these computer coding credits (2) as foreign language credits; and

Whereas, the Florida Department of Education would be responsible for the oversight of the computer coding courses that would count for credit, potentially without representation from the higher education institutions that would be required to accept these courses; and

Whereas, students could take these computer coding courses at the Florida Virtual School if their high schools do not offer them, and college system institutions and state universities would likewise be required to accept these computer coding credits; and

Whereas, foreign language study is an integral part of USF's mission, as evidenced by activities such as the Global Citizens Project (<http://www.usf.edu/gcp/>) and the bid to house a chapter of the nation's oldest academic honor society, Phi Beta Kappa; and

Whereas, Florida is a multicultural state⁵, foreign language study is imperative in fostering an appreciation for all of its citizens; therefore

Be it resolved that the USF Faculty Senate strongly opposes the substitution of computer coding courses for foreign language courses.

¹Thompson, A.S. (2016). How learning a new language improves tolerance. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/how-learning-a-new-language-improves-tolerance-68472>

²Valian, V. (2015). Bilingualism and cognition. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 18(1), 3–24. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1366728914000522>

³Dewaele, J.-M. & Wei, L. (2013). Is multilingualism linked to a higher tolerance of ambiguity? *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, 16(1), 231–240. doi: 10.1017/S1366728912000570

⁴Nguyen, H.T. & Kellogg, G. (2010). "I had a stereotype that American were fat": Becoming a speaker of culture in a second language. *Modern Language Journal*, 94(1), 56–73. doi: 10.1111/j.1540-4781.2009.00983.x

⁵Ryan, C. (2013). Language use in the United States: 2011. *United States Census Bureau*, 1–16. Accessed 17 June 2016 at <https://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/acs-22.pdf>