

**A Resolution to Acknowledge Black History Month and
to Formally Condemn Racism at The Ohio State University**

Rayvon Braziel (for himself, Neveah Hawthorne, Mekateko Mathebula, Kalyn Mullens, and Deondray Radford) introduced the following resolution to the Black Caucus Issues Committee where it passed. Then, the Steering Committee where it passed, and to the floor where it passed.

* * *

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University; and

Whereas Black History Month, also known as United Black World Month, “is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history;”¹ and

Whereas Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the son of former slaves and an accomplished historian from Virginia, founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History in 1915 with the goal in mind to study, teach, and preserve African American history;² and

Whereas Dr. Woodson founded *The Journal of Negro History* (now known as *The Journal of African American History*) in 1916, which has been recognized as the first published academic journal dedicated to the dissemination of African American history;³ and

Whereas Dr. Woodson was one of the first scholars to devote his research machinations to the study of the African diaspora, including African American history;⁴ and

Whereas in keeping with his vision of witnessing African American history being taught in primary and secondary educable governmental institutions across the nation, Dr. Woodson announced the commencement of Negro History Week in 1926; and

¹ [Black History Month 2022: Facts](#)

² [The Founding of the Association September 9, 1915](#)

³ [Origins of Black History Month](#)

⁴ [Carter G. Woodson, Father of Black History](#)

Whereas Dr. Woodson chose the second week in February to accommodate such a celebration in commemoration of the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and escaped slave turned abolitionist and orator, Frederick Douglass, on February 12th and 14th, respectively⁵; and

Whereas the proclamation of the second week of February as “Negro History Week” became a nationwide one; and

Whereas after the era of the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Liberation Movement during the 1960s, it was necessitated that Negro History Week should be expanded into an entire month’s long duration; and

Whereas in 1969, the Black United Students organization at Kent State University, in collaboration with Black educators therein; proposed that Negro History Week be revised as Black History Month, to reflect the full accomplishments of persons of African descent to the foundation of this country which could be achieved adequately over the span of one week; and to reflect the antiquity of the term, “negro”; and

Whereas on February 1, 1970, Kent State University observed the first month-long observation of what became Black History Month;⁶ and

Whereas on February 10, 1976, President Gerald R. Ford, in coincidence with the nation’s bicentennial anniversary; formerly recognized Black History Month as a federal observance, and formally designated the month of February as the appointed time for such observance; and

Whereas since that time, the countries of the United Kingdom (1987),⁷ Germany (1990),⁸ Canada (1995)⁹ and the Republic of Ireland (2010),¹⁰ have adopted their own federal variations of Black History Month; and

Whereas Black History Month is observed by officers of, and other entities at, The Ohio State University (e.g., the Multicultural Center & the Office of Diversity & Inclusion), traditionally excluding acknowledgement from USG); and

Whereas according to the Enrollment Report for the Autumn 2020 semester, 7.4% of students at The Ohio State University identify as Black or African American;¹¹ and

⁵ [How Negro History Week Became Black History Month and Why It Matters Now](#)

⁶ [Special Collections and Archive](#)

⁷ [From emperors to inventors: the unsung heroes to celebrate in Black History Month](#)

⁸ [Rethinking Black History Month in Germany](#)

⁹ [Black History Month in Canada](#)

¹⁰ [How Ireland is celebrating National Black History Month](#)

¹¹ [The Ohio State University - Statistical Summary](#)

Whereas according to the most recent Undergraduate Student Government Demographic Survey, about 6.5% of members within USG during the school year beginning in 2019 and ending in 2020 identify as Black or African American;¹² and

Whereas the 52nd General Assembly passed 52-R-21 on February 5, 2020; wherein it was resolved that “... the Undergraduate Student Government integrate the recognition of African-Americans and other minority groups’ celebratory months into their systems and practices;”¹³ and

Whereas 52-R-21 likewise resolved therein that “... the Undergraduate Student Government affirms the recognition of Black History Month every year...;”¹³ and

Whereas the 54th General Assembly passed 54-R-21 on February 9, 2022, wherein it was resolved that “the Undergraduate Student Government continues to integrate the recognition of celebratory observances of African Americans and other minority groups into their systems and practices”;¹⁴ and

Whereas during the 2019-2020 academic year, the Undergraduate Student Government failed to acknowledge Black History Month in the Frank W. Hale Black Cultural Arts Center (colloquially known as ‘Hale Hall’); a historical landmark along the Underground Railroad which was used by persons in bondage to escape their captivity; and is now home to the Black Cultural Center at The Ohio State University, giving context to the history of institutional racism and marginalization of Black students in the Undergraduate Student Government; and

Whereas Black students deserve to be respected, valued, and celebrated in the Undergraduate Student Government and at The Ohio State University.

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the 56th General Assembly recognizes Black History Month and celebrates Black history and culture; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the General Assembly will formally acknowledge Black History Month in the form of a resolution every year in which the legislative body, and the federal observance of Black History Month, shall be of potency; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government continues its affirmative commitment to recognizing Black History Month every year; and

¹² [USG Demographic Report 2019-2020](#)

¹³ <https://osu.app.box.com/s/ms013q2klwcql9rosxluc4py6yhrvgzq>

¹⁴ [54-R-21](#)

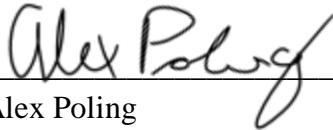
Let it Further Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government will continuously acknowledge, value, and uplift the work of Black student leaders at The Ohio State University; and

Let it Further Be Resolved the Undergraduate Student Government continues to integrate the recognition of celebratory observances of African Americans and other minority groups into their systems and practices; and

Let it Finally Be Resolved that the Undergraduate Student Government firmly condemns all forms of racism and white supremacy at The Ohio State University in perpetuity.

Floor Vote: Unanimous Consent

Bobby McAlpine
President



Alex Poling
Speaker of the 56th General Assembly

Date Adopted: February 21st, 2024