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The Year in Higher Education: An Administrators Discussion of Campus Conflicts

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The Year in Higher Education

Administrators Discussion of Campus Conflicts

The Spencer Visit to University of Florida

William Connellan
Assistant Provost
University of Florida

Richard Spencer

University of Florida Visit

October 19, 2017

Hate Speech

- Protected
- Weaponize

The Setting

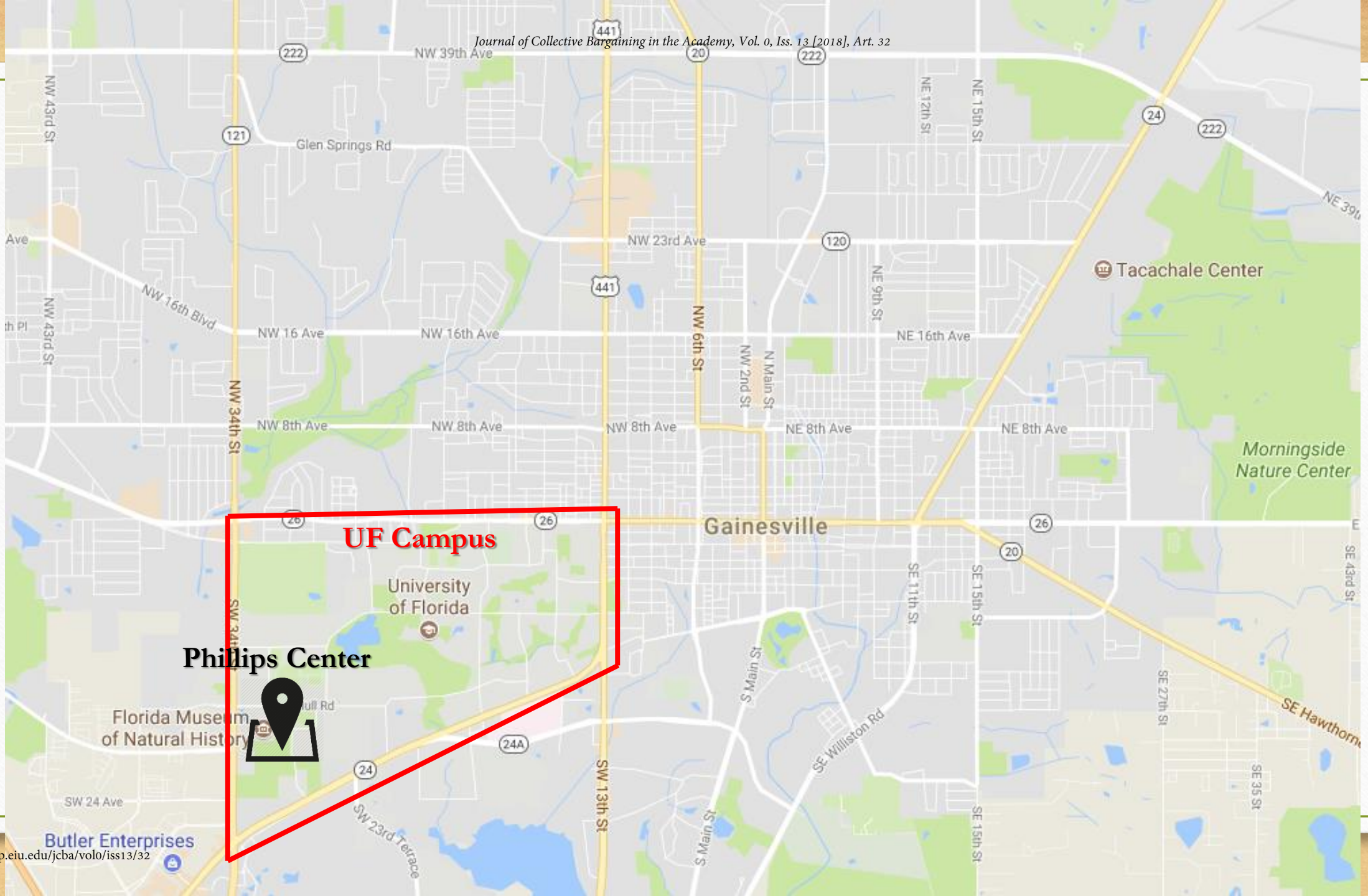
- Shortly after Charlottesville
- UF initially said no
- The first proposed date in September did not work
- Hurricane impacted plans
- Then we negotiated for the October date
- No sponsor; just rent space as normal to outside groups

The Location

- Phillips Center
 - Away from the center of campus
 - Better ability to control access
- Concern about open space

Phillips Center





Preparing for the Visit

-
- Visited Berkeley during Yiannopolous Free Speech Week
 - Coordinated approach with police agencies
 - University police
 - Gainesville police
 - Florida Highway patrol
 - Alachua County Sheriff
 - Other state university police forces
 - Area police agencies
 - Joint Information Center
 - Governor's Executive Order

Police Presence

- Decision to have overwhelming police presence
- Several hundred police officers
- Became increasingly visible during week

Other Prep

- Road Closures
- Churches and other civic groups
- Prohibited items list
- Ticket sales



PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Weapons, firearms or simulated firearms • Tasers, knives, or sharp objects • Lighters, matches, torches or open flame • Any athletic equipment or other items which could be used as a
- Masks of any kind, goggles, bandanas/scarfs, neck gaiters • Flag Poles, bats, clubs, sticks (including sticks on signs) • Aerosol/pressurized cans, mace • Chains, padlocks, bicycle locks • St
- Backpacks, bags, purses, clutches • Signs made of anything other than cloth, paper, foam core, cardboard • Cans, metal or glass containers • Premixed beverages or alcoholic beverages • No wa
- Pop-up tents, canopies or hammocks • Wagons or pull carts • Coolers • Drones or other unmanned aircraft systems • Pets (excluding ADA service animals) • Grills, propane tanks • Bicycles, sco
- Tobacco products of any kind • Umbrellas • Laser pointers • Water balloons • Megaphones or other amplified sound devices • Other items deemed inappropriate by law enforcement

University Command

Traffic & Perimeter Branch

Media Attention

- 340 credentialed press
- Lots of national visibility
- Joint Information Center (police)
- University public statements
- Internal communications

Event Day

- Wandering the campus early in the day
- Only two arrests
 - Scuffles but no significant violence
- Small turnout for event itself
 - Only about ½ full
 - Many not his supporters
- The Texans with bad aim

Postscript

- Expensive
- Disruptive to campus operations
- Could have been much worse
- Internal communications could have been better
- Fears different for non-majority populations on campus

Bargaining Implications

- Faculty
 - Request to ban Spencer from campus
 - Consultation re: banned items
- Grad Assistants
 - Cancel classes request
 - Fear of unknown
- Police
 - Overtime issue
 - Lost 6 weeks of bargaining new Lt. contract

Questions???

