

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2020-1015

TITLE: Resolution Recommending Additional Resources for International Students Facing Hardship Due to the COVID-19 Crisis

AUTHORS: Senator Noemi Galeano, Isabella Garcia, Latinx Caucus Co-Chair Kevin Trejos, Latinx Caucus Co-Chair Santiago Clavijo-Gomez

SPONSORS: Matthew Diaz, Senator Matthew Rodriguez, Minority Leader Colin Solomon, and International Affairs Cabinet Director Keri Ann Collins

WHEREAS, the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act is a U.S. law that has provided many resources for American families and businesses [1]; and,

WHEREAS, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals^[P.7]_[SEP](DACA) and international students cannot apply for federal CARES Act funding [1]; and,

WHEREAS, many international students have not been able to return to their home countries; and are faced with difficult decisions related to their health and safety as a result of COVID-19 and the Level 4 ‘do not travel’ global advisory issued March 19, 2020 [3]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is the ‘second home’ to more than 6,000 international students [2] and UF has not provided any resources for finding alternative housing for international students who have vacated their on-campus residence but are unable to return to their current home [3]; and,

WHEREAS, most international students are only allowed to work on-campus, unless they request special authorization such as CPT, OPT or temporary relief measures, which they might not be able to do due to COVID-19 affecting other types of employment [4]; and,

WHEREAS, international students are the group that pays the most in tuition and fees, with a starting cost of \$48,800 [5]; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recommends that the UF Department of Housing and Residence Education should provide all international students with appropriate accommodations by allowing them to extend their on-campus housing lease, should they choose to remain on campus.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recommends that the University of Florida provides additional financial resources for

international and DACA students.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need to better help international students throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to President W. Kent Fuchs, Provost Joseph Glover, Student Body President Trevor Pope, Diversity Cabinet Chair Robyn Louis, Dean of the University of Florida International Center Leonardo A. Villalón, Office For Student Financial Affairs Director Donna Kolb, and Volunteers for International Student Affairs President Sai Chickakuragodu.

[1] <https://www.sfa.ufl.edu/cares-act-faqs/>

[2] <https://www.eng.ufl.edu/students/students/international/incoming-students/international-students/>

[3] https://www.alligator.org/news/covid-19-affects-study-abroad-international-students-in-dorms/article_6f421098-6ce8-11ea-81fe-f3f38299afeb.html

[4] <https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/f-1-student/f-1-status-requirements/employment>

[5] <https://internationalcenter.ufl.edu/start-up>